CITY HILIGHTS

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QUICK READ

Police detect 75 cases, recover ₹ 1.79 crore property

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City North Division police have detected 75 criminal cases, including day and night house-break thefts and vehicle thefts, within their jurisdiction and other police station limits across the city and beyond. In connection with these cases, 83 accused persons have been arrested. Police have recovered stolen property worth approximately Rs 1.79 crore from their possession. The recovered items include 1 kg 879 grams of gold ornaments, 4.58 grams of diamond jewellery, and 1 kg 783 grams of silver articles. Police also seized 54 two-wheelers, two three-wheelers, and one four-wheeler.

Greater Bengaluru Authority plans boating in 10 city lakes

BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is planning to introduce boating facilities in 10 lakes across the city, aiming to boost tourism while generating revenue for lake maintenance and infrastructure. Officials said only pedal boats will be permitted, as motorised boats could harm the fragile lake ecosystem. The identified lakes include Ulsoor, Kaggadasapura, Nayandahalli, Sankey, Yelahanka, Rachenahalli, Vengaiah, Rampura, Begur and Madiwala. A senior GBA official said the tourism department will implement the project in collaboration with the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority.

1.7kg charas hidden in candy packets seized at Bengaluru airport

BENGALURU

Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport seized 1.7 kg of hashish, commonly known as charas, from a passenger arriving from Bangkok. During a detailed inspection of his baggage, officers found suspicious candy and sweet packets. On opening the boxes, they discovered charas concealed inside the packets in a bid to evade detection. The seized contraband is estimated to be worth around Rs 4.2 lakh in the illegal market. The passenger was immediately taken into custody and later arrested under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Further investigation is underway.

Cabinet decides to relocate Bangalore Race Course to Kunigal

Historic Turf Club to move; city land retained as green space

BENGALURU

In a major policy decision, the State Cabinet approved the relocation of the Bangalore Race Course from Race Course Road to Kunigal in Tumakuru district. The existing race course land in Bengaluru will be retained primarily as a lung space, preserving much-needed green cover in the heart of the city.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Minister H.K. Patil said the Cabinet has cleared the proposal to lease 110 acres and 20 guntes of land at Kunigal Stud Farm, which falls under the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department, to the Bangalore Turf Club for 29 years. The annual lease amount will be fixed at 2.5 percent of the guidance value, with effect from December 15, 2020. The lease also includes an option for a further extension of 29 years.

However, five acres in Block-A of the Kunigal Stud Farm — comprising a guest house, helipad, swimming pool and connecting roads — will be retained by the department and excluded from the lease agreement.

Regarding the present race course property in Bengaluru, the Minister said that except for the four-acre area housing the heritage building and clubhouse, the remaining land will be preserved as lung space in line with the Public Works Department's recommendations.

The Cabinet also addressed financial concerns related to the Turf Club's lease. Since the lease expired on January 1, 2010, rent had not been revised due to pending court cases, resulting in financial losses to the government. Following audit and Public Accounts Committee objections, the Bangalore Turf Club has now been directed to clear outstanding dues to the Public Works Department after adjusting rent already paid, calculated from the lease expiry date until settlement.

The decision marks a significant shift in land use planning while aiming to balance heritage, revenue and environmental priorities.

Weekly phone-in programme continues for civic grievances

An opportunity for citizens to express their grievances and get quick remedial measures

BENGALURU

With the aim of ensuring prompt resolution of public grievances and improving civic services, the Bengaluru North City Corporation conducted its weekly Phone-In programme on Friday between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. at the Commissioner's Office Hall on Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura.

During the session, complaints were received directly from residents across various wards. Officials reviewed each grievance and issued necessary instructions to the concerned departments to ensure speedy redressal.

Since the launch of the initiative on September 26, a total of 1,112 complaints have been registered over 20 weeks. Of these, 791 complaints have been addressed, while 69 complaints falling outside the North City Corporation's jurisdiction were forwarded to the respective municipal bodies and departments. Strict directions have now been issued to expedite action on the remaining 218 pending complaints.

In Friday's programme alone, 50 calls were received, leading to the registration of 65 complaints. All issues were examined on the spot, and officials were instructed to respond without delay.

Road-related grievances accounted for the highest number, with 27 complaints focusing on poor maintenance and unsafe conditions. Authorities were directed to prioritise quality repairs and ensure safe commuting facilities.

Fifteen complaints were related to solid waste collection and management. Departments concerned were instructed to maintain timely garbage collection in all wards, adopt scientific disposal methods, and address lapses promptly.

Six complaints regarding malfunctioning streetlights were also recorded. Officials have been directed to strengthen maintenance mechanisms to ensure proper illumination across the corporation limits.

Box: The Phone-In programme, designed to provide direct solutions to citizens' issues and monitor development works, will continue regularly every Friday to ensure transparency, accountability and responsive governance.

Kelachandra Skill Development Centre empowers youth towards self-reliance: Suja KJ George

BENGALURU

The initiatives undertaken by Energy Minister KJ George through the Kelachandra Skill Development Centre to equip youth with employable skills and promote self-reliance are highly commendable, said Suja KJ George, Managing Trustee of the Kelachandra Foundation.

She was speaking after distributing certificates to candidates who completed three-month skill development courses at the Kelachandra Skill Development Centre in Jeevanahalli. Describing the centre as a visionary project of KJ George and Rana George, she said it has been playing a key role in empowering the youth community in Sarvagnanagar constituency.

Suja KJ George noted that the Kelachandra Foundation's centres not only provide skill training but also extend services in sports, education and healthcare. "It gives me immense happiness to see society benefiting from these initiatives. Our family is equally happy as the people of the constituency are making progress," she said.

Encouraging the trainees, she said their hard work during the training period would yield positive results in the future. By acquiring skills and staying focused, youth can become financially independent and avoid social evils such as drug addiction, she added.

Highlighting the Foundation's contribution to healthcare, she said over 38,000 free dialysis sessions have been conducted since 2014. More than 1.1 lakh consultations for diabetes and hypertension have been provided, while over 1.20 lakh citizens have availed laboratory and free medicine facilities. Around 30,000 registered outpatients have benefited, and community health workers have visited more than 80,000 homes to help families access healthcare, pension and welfare schemes.

Addressing the gathering, KJ George said the Foundation is implementing programmes in health, education and skill development to transform Sarvagnanagar into a model constituency. Distribution of certificates to trained youth marks a strong foundation for their future, he added.

Horrific accident on Ring Road, 7 killed in multi-vehicle crash

BENGALURU

At least seven people, including college students, were killed in a high-speed multi-vehicle collision near M Satyawara village in Hoskote taluk of Bengaluru Rural district in the early hours of Friday. The accident occurred between 5.15 am and 5.30 am on the Dobbaspet–Hoskote Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) stretch between M Satyawara and Kambalipura Gate. Two SUVs, a canter truck and a motorcycle were involved in the crash, police said.

According to preliminary investigations, the impact was so severe that the truck's rear axle broke, causing the vehicle to topple onto the service road after crashing into the median barrier. A Mahindra XUV 700 was mangled beyond recognition. A Maruti Brezza travelling behind also rammed into the truck's detached axle lying on the carriageway.

The motorcyclist, identified as 26-year-old Gagan from Devanayakanahalli in Devanahalli taluk, died on the spot after being flung into the air. Gagan, the only son of his parents, had been returning home from work. He was employed at HOPCOMS and had completed a night shift before the tragedy. His mother is visually impaired.

Six occupants travelling in the XUV 700, including students identified as Ashwin, Ayan Ali, Bharat, Arhaan and Itan George, also died instantly. They were reportedly students of RV and CMR colleges and residents of Kothanur who were out on a joyride. The victims were shifted to MVJ Hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead. The occupants of the Brezza and the truck driver sustained injuries but are said to be out of danger. Witnesses and commuters alerted authorities and attempted rescue efforts.

Officers from Sulibele police station, along with senior officials including IG Labhurao, SP Chandrakar and DySP Mallesh, inspected the scene. Traffic was disrupted for over an hour as cranes cleared the wreckage. A case has been registered and investigation is underway.

Lokayukta raids four officials; High Court enhances accident compensation

BENGALURU

Sleuths of the Karnataka Lokayukta conducted simultaneous raids at 29 locations across Bengaluru, Davanagere and Dharwad in connection with alleged disproportionate assets cases against four government officials. The searches covered residences, offices and properties linked to their relatives.

In Bengaluru, raids were carried out at premises associated with HM Janardhan, superintendent engineer with the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS), and Purushotham Das Hegde, chief engineer and project director of the Karnataka State Highway Development Project (KSHDP).

In Davanagere, properties linked to RH Arjun, Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil) with BESCOM, were searched. In Dharwad, sleuths raided premises belonging to Somalingappa Fakkirappa Siddanagoudar, survey supervisor at the Assistant Director of Land Records (ADLR) office.

Officials said assets unearthed during the raids included gold, silver, cash, residential sites, houses, agricultural land, vehicles and other valuables. The value of assets allegedly found includes Rs 11.3 crore linked to Purushotham, Rs 4.4 crore to Janardhan, about Rs 2.2 crore to Arjun and Rs 1.8 crore to Somalingappa. Further investigation is underway.

In a separate development, the Karnataka High Court enhanced compensation to the family of a driver who died in a road accident in Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh in August 2022.

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal had earlier awarded Rs 18.1 lakh to the family of P Ramesh, attributing 40% contributory negligence to him. Challenging the order, his family sought higher compensation.

Justice P Sree Sudha observed that the tractor involved in the accident was parked in the middle of a national highway at 12.30 am without indicators or warning signals. Holding that negligence lay with the tractor driver and not the deceased, the court set aside the finding of contributory negligence.

Based on the notional income chart of the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority, the court recalculated Ramesh's income at Rs 15,500 per month and awarded Rs 24.93 lakh with 6% interest to his family.

Meat sale banned in Bengaluru for Mahashivratri

BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has issued a notification prohibiting animal slaughter and the sale of meat in slaughterhouses under its jurisdiction on the occasion of Mahashivratri. The ban will be enforced across Bengaluru on February 15.

Officials said the decision was taken in view of the religious significance of the festival, which is observed with devotion by lakhs of devotees in the city. Slaughterhouses and meat shops operating within GBA limits have been directed to remain closed for the day.

Mahashivratri, known as the "Great Night of Shiva," holds deep spiritual importance in Hindu tradition. The festival symbolises spiritual awakening and the triumph of light over darkness and ignorance. It also commemorates the divine marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, revered as the union of Shiva and Shakti — representing power, harmony and togetherness.

According to mythology, Lord Shiva is believed to have arrived at Goddess Parvati's abode on their wedding night accompanied by a unique procession of gods, goddesses, sages and celestial beings. The sacred union is celebrated annually with fasting, night-long prayers and special rituals at temples across the country.

Authorities have appealed to citizens and traders to cooperate with the temporary ban and ensure peaceful observance of the festival.

No Valentine's at Nandi Hills; entry banned on Feb 14

BENGALURU

In an unprecedented move, the Nandi Hills near Bengaluru will remain closed to visitors on February 14, Valentine's Day, for the first time.

The Chikkaballapur district administration has prohibited entry of tourists and private vehicles from 6 am to 6 pm, citing crowd management and public safety concerns. Security personnel will be stationed at the entry point to enforce the restriction. Located about 60 km from Bengaluru, Nandi Hills witnesses heavy footfall on weekends and holidays, drawing up to 18,000 visitors a day.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

2,500 coffee kiosks to be set up: MB Patil

BENGALURU

The State government has sanctioned Rs 25 crore to establish 2,500 'Akka Cafe' coffee kiosks across Karnataka, aimed at empowering women and strengthening the coffee value chain, said Industries Minister M.B. Patil. The kiosks will be operated by women trained under Self-Help Groups (SHGs), generating employment and promoting entrepreneurship.

He was speaking after inaugurating the India International Coffee Festival organised by the Specialty Coffee Association of India (SCAI) at Palace Grounds. The Coffee Board of India, in collaboration with the National Rural Livelihood Mission–Karnataka, is providing training in coffee brewing, café management and entrepreneurship to one lakh women associated with SHGs across the State.

Patil said the government is also extending scholarships to children of workers employed in coffee estates and large plantations in Kodagu district. He welcomed the growing trend of coffee growers branding their own produce and showcasing it at the festival. At the 'Kala Loka' outlet set up by the Industries Department at Kempegowda International Airport, coffee is being marketed alongside more than 45 other GI-tagged products from Karnataka with distinctive branding and packaging. Karnataka, the largest coffee producer in India, cultivates coffee over 2.2 lakh hectares. Nearly 75 per cent of the country's production comes from Hassan, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru districts.

The festival brought together growers, processors, exporters, roasters, café owners, equipment manufacturers and consumers under one roof. Patil visited several stalls, interacted with exhibitors and purchased select coffee products.

Beyond the classroom, city schools help students beat exam stress

BENGALURU

With exam season returning, schools across the city are stepping beyond textbooks to help students manage stress, anxiety and academic pressure. Institutions are introducing structured mentoring, therapy sessions and recreational activities to ensure students remain emotionally balanced during board and annual examinations.

At Delhi Public School East, a structured mentor-teacher programme was introduced, mapping each mentor to just two students. The initiative focused on those struggling with academic pressure, emotional fatigue or disengagement while preparing for board exams. Principal Manila Carvalho said the programme continued even during study holidays, when students usually lack regular academic or emotional support. Scheduled check-ins and one-on-one mentoring helped track progress, bridge learning gaps and provide reassurance during peak anxiety.

Meanwhile, New Baldwin International School, Mandur adopted sound healing therapy to calm students. In this technique, students lie down in a closed room while soothing sounds are played. cio-emotional learning sessions.

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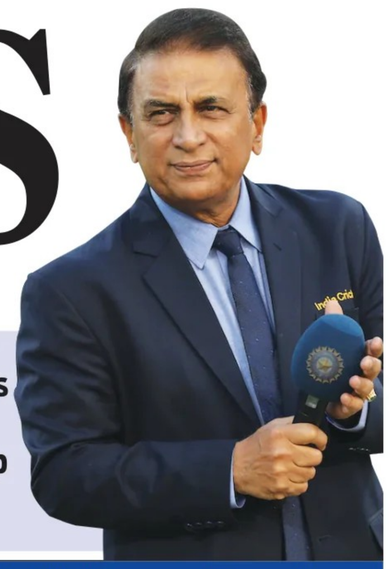
P12 Gavaskar expects Kuldeep to replace Arshdeep against Pak



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LS Adjourned Till Mar 9 Amid Oppn Protests

The Opposition insisted that Hardeep Puri step down as a minister pending a thorough explanation

NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha was adjourned till March 9 on Friday after Opposition MPs protested over Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's alleged links to Jeffrey Epstein. The Opposition demanded that Puri step down and provide a full explanation regarding emails reportedly exchanged with the convicted American financier.

The protests began in the Parliament complex early in the day, with MPs raising slogans and disrupting proceedings. Earlier, the House was adjourned till noon due to the demonstration on the final day of the first phase of the Budget session. Hardeep Puri had on Wednesday denied any wrongdoing, saying he met Epstein on "a few occasions" but had no connection to the crimes Epstein was convicted of. The minister also criticized Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "passing innuendo" against him.

Amid the uproar, the Congress party responded strongly to a substantive motion moved by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. The matter intensified tensions in the House, prompting repeated adjournments.

During Friday's session, the House also observed a minute of silence in memory of former Haridwar MP Bhagwandas Rathore, who recently passed away.

After a Congress Parliamentary Party meeting, MP Hibi Eden told reporters that the party would continue raising issues of national importance, including farmers' concerns and India's trade negotiations, such as the India-US trade deal, without being intimidated.

The adjournment comes amid growing scrutiny of ministers' conduct and allegations of improper associations, with the Opposition pressing for accountability and transparency. The House is set to resume on March 9.

RAJYA SABHA ADJOURNED TILL MARCH 9 FOR BUDGET

Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned on Friday until March 9 as Parliament began a three-week recess to allow standing committees to scrutinize Budget proposals. The Upper House met for Zero Hour at 11 am and concluded at 1 pm after Question Hour. Lok Sabha proceedings were also adjourned till the same date. The first part of the Budget Session began on January 28 with President Droupadi Murmu's address. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2026-27 on February 1. Committees will now examine allocations to various central ministries during the recess.

B'desh's BNP claims landslide win in 1st election since uprising

DHAKA

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) claimed a decisive victory in the 13th parliamentary elections, ending the 18-month rule of the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government. Party sources said BNP secured over 151 seats out of 300, enough to form the next government, though the Election Commission (EC) has yet to officially announce results.

Tarique Rahman, son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, is set to become Bangladesh's first male prime minister in 35 years. After returning from self-exile in December 2025, Rahman asked party leaders and activists to offer prayers nationwide instead of holding public rallies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Rahman on his "decisive victory" and expressed eagerness to collaborate for regional development. The US Embassy in Dhaka also praised the election as successful and recognized BNP's win as historic, noting its role in advancing prosperity and security.

The elections, conducted alongside a referendum on the 84-point July National Charter, were largely peaceful, though sporadic incidents occurred. BNP's main contest was against Jamaat-e-Islami and its allies, who alleged result manipulation in several constituencies and raised concerns over delays by returning officers. The National Citizen Party also claimed discrepancies in Dhaka constituencies.

- **Political Lineage**
  Tarique Rahman is the eldest son of former Bangladeshi president Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, placing him at the center of Bangladesh's major political rivalry between the BNP and Awami League.
- **Exile in London**
  Rahman has lived in self-imposed exile since 2008, directing BNP strategy from London due to security concerns and alleged political persecution.
- **Leader without Parliamentary Experience**
  Despite leading the BNP, he has never served as a member of Bangladesh's Parliament, making him a national leader with authority derived from party control rather than elected office.

SHIVAKUMAR SAYS HOPE WILL DECIDE LEADERSHIP OUTCOME

BENGALURU

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, returning from New Delhi after meeting the Congress high command, said on Friday that he lives with "hope and confidence" and believes that efforts eventually bear fruit. His remarks come amid reports of a possible leadership transition in the state.

Shivakumar told reporters, "I always live with hope and confidence. There will always be fruit for the effort, whether it is for you, for me, or for anyone else. Where there is effort, there is fruit; where there is devotion, there is God." Asked if results could come soon, he smiled, adding, "Let's talk about that some other time."

Reports suggested both Shivakumar and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah might be summoned to New Delhi around February 17 to discuss a possible change in leadership. Responding, he said, "I don't know. Let's see. Time will answer everything."

During his visit, Shivakumar met senior Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge. Earlier, he had said that patience would be necessary and the central leadership would decide on the chief ministerial issue in the state's interest.

The speculation over leadership has grown since the Congress government completed half of its five-year term on November 20, 2025, and is linked to an alleged power-sharing arrangement between Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah during the 2023 formation of the government. On queries about a reported foreign tour by some legislators to Australia and New Zealand amid the ongoing tussle, Shivakumar said he was unaware and would inquire. He added that the high command has not sought any details about the trip.

Dam Safety a Shared National Responsibility, Says Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday stressed the urgent need for systematic safety checks, modernisation, and risk-based management of India's dams, pointing out that nearly 70 per cent are over 25 years old. Speaking at the two-day International Dam Safety Conference at the Indian Institute of Science, he said, "Water does not recognise political boundaries, nor should safety standards," calling for cooperative federalism in water governance. Siddaramaiah highlighted that India has 6,628 dams, ranking third globally, while Karnataka has 231 dams, ranking sixth nationally. He emphasized that dam safety is a shared national responsibility, citing risks from ageing infrastructure, seismic threats, climate extremes, and reservoir sedimentation. He also noted that digitalisation brings cybersecurity risks that must be addressed as part of core infrastructure security.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, DCM DK Shivakumar, World Bank Vice President (South Asia) Johannes Zutt, Prof. Toshio Koike, Union Minister Raj Bhushan Choudhary, and others at the International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS) 2026, at Tata Auditorium in the city. CH PHOTO

The CM urged governments to go beyond compliance, institutionalising risk-informed decisions, periodic inspections, safety audits, and emergency action plans. He called on academic institutions to collaborate on multidisciplinary research, and financial institutions to support long-term modernisation instead of short-term repairs.

TN women receive ₹5k grant

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday credited ₹5,000 each to the bank accounts of 1.31 crore women heads of families under the Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam (KMUT) scheme. The payment includes ₹1,000 for February, ₹2,000 in advance for March and April, and a special summer assistance of ₹2,000.

Mr. Stalin, who is also DMK president, announced that if his party is re-elected in the upcoming Assembly elections, the monthly grant for beneficiaries will increase to ₹2,000 under the "Dravidian 2.0" model of governance. He said the advance disbursement was necessary due to attempts by some groups to delay the grant during the election period.

More on page 7

QUICK READ

Rahul Gandhi meets farm unions over trade deal

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Friday met farm union leaders at Parliament to discuss launching a nationwide movement against the India-US interim trade deal. The unions expressed concern over its impact on farmers' livelihoods, especially for corn, soybean, cotton, fruits, and nuts. Gandhi highlighted that the deal could increase agricultural imports, potentially affecting more crops in the future. The meeting focused on protecting farmers and farm labourers and building collective action to oppose the agreement.

Man dies after collapsing at TVK rally

SALEM

A 37-year-old man, Suraj, collapsed at a Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) rally addressed by party chief Vijay in Salem on Friday and died en route to the hospital. Suraj, originally from Maharashtra and residing in Tamil Nadu, complained of chest pain before collapsing. He had previously undergone angioplasty. Despite being rushed to a local medical facility, he was declared dead on arrival. The police have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances surrounding his death.

Hoax bomb threats target five Delhi schools

NEW DELHI

At least five schools in Delhi received bomb threat emails on Friday morning, which authorities later confirmed as a hoax. The messages contained alarming claims, stating "Delhi will become Khalistan" and warned of a bomb blast at 1:11 pm in the schools. The email also threatened a blast inside Parliament at 2:11 pm, prompting heightened security measures and coordination among multiple agencies. Police and school officials quickly verified the threats as false, ensuring the safety of students and staff.

RBI bans harassment over loan recovery

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is taking a strong stand against harassment by loan recovery agents. From July 1, 2026, strict guidelines will come into effect to protect borrowers from bullying and mistreatment.

Borrowers who miss EMI payments often face aggressive recovery tactics. Recovery agents earn commissions based on the amount collected, which sometimes leads to abusive or threatening behavior. The new rules aim to change that, ensuring borrowers are treated with respect and dignity.

HAMPI REVELRY BEGINS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated the historic Hampi Utsav on Friday. District in-charge Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, Ministers Shivraj Tangadagi and Byrathi Suresh, "Hat-trick Hero" Shivarajkumar, Member of Parliament Tukaram, along with MLAs and leaders from Ballari and Vijayanagara districts, and the Chairman of the Guarantee Implementation Authority and former minister H. M. Revanna, were also present. CH PHOTO

Hampi Utsav-2026 begins with vibrant display

KALABURAGI

Hampi Utsav, a three-day cultural extravaganza, began on Friday at the Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Vijayanagara district, drawing participants from across the region. The opening day blended culture with rural tradition, highlighted by a grand exhibition of over 170 bullock pairs organised by the district administration and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.

Held near the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority office at Kamalapur, the event showcased indigenous breeds such as Hallikar, Malnad Gidda, Ongole, Amrit Mahal and Kilari. A panel of veterinary experts evaluated the animals on breed purity, strength and overall health, with winners to be announced later.

At Matanga Hill grounds, fruit and flower shows featured floral replicas of iconic monuments like the Badavi Shivalinga and Sasivekalu Ganesha. The 'Suggi Sambhrama' harvest festival and agricultural expo displayed indigenous seeds, organic produce, sericulture and modern farming technologies, including drones.

PARAMESHWARA PLEA

Parameshwara slams public talk of leadership change

BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Friday urged Congress leaders to immediately stop public discussions about a possible change in the state leadership. Speaking to reporters, he said the party's energy should focus on governance and development, rather than internal politics.

Parameshwara noted that the party high command, led by AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, had already called for silence on the issue. "Despite clear instructions, leaders and legislators are commenting on the leadership matter. This is not appropriate. Enough is enough," he said.

The senior Congress leader stressed that the high command knows when and how to act. He said he would also communicate with them to ensure the speculation ends. "People are watching us, and their expectations are different. We must focus on development," he added.

Internal tensions have resurfaced with reports that both CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D. K. Shivakumar could be in contention for leadership roles. The situation intensified as Siddaramaiah's son, MLC Yathindra, insisted his father would complete the full five-year term, while Shivakumar's supporters claimed he had backing from many legislators.

The speculation stems from a "power-sharing" arrangement agreed upon during the government formation in 2023 and the halfway mark of the five-year term reached on November 20, 2025. Parameshwara urged patience, noting that the party high command has handled similar situations in the past. He said public statements by leaders only distract from administrative duties and urged colleagues to prioritize the expectations of citizens.

QUICK READ

Civil pensioners stage protest in Bengaluru

Bengaluru

Responding to a call given by the CHQ and the Forum of Civil Pensioners Association, members staged a mass dharna on Friday at the Telephone House premises, Office of the PGM, Bengaluru BA, on Raj Bhavan Road. The protest was organised to oppose the validation of Pension Rules passed as part of the Finance Act and to demand modifications to the terms of reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission. Office-bearers of the association and several members participated in the demonstration, voicing their concerns and urging the authorities to address their long-pending demands.

Allegations of torture of child in private school

Bengaluru

A five-year-old boy was allegedly assaulted by a teacher at a private school near Srinivas Nagar in Hanumantha Nagar. According to the child's parents, they confronted the teacher after noticing injuries, following which a complaint was lodged at the Hanumantha Nagar police station. Police said the teacher later apologised. However, the parents have alleged that after the complaint was filed, the teacher again beat the child, assaulting him on the back and cheek. A video of the parents confronting the school management has since gone viral. Police are investigating the matter.

New FAR policy boosts industrial land use to 75%, says MB Patil

Official order revises floor area ratio to boost industry growth

BENGALURU

In a major push to make industrial development more investor-friendly, the state government has increased permissible land utilisation in industrial sites from 65 percent to 75 percent under a revised Floor Area Ratio (FAR) policy.

Announcing the decision, Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil said the move would significantly enhance industrial growth in areas developed by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB). An official order has been issued to implement the revised FAR norms.

Patil described the step as historic, noting that it would reduce the need for acquiring additional land for industries. "Earlier, if 10 acres were allotted, only 6.5 acres could be used for construction. The rest had to be reserved for surface parking and mandatory setbacks. Now, industries can utilise up to 75 percent of the land, reducing costs and easing financial pressure," he said. He added that the reform would also help protect farmers' land by minimising fresh acquisitions.

The minister explained that setback norms have been relaxed considerably. Previously, 7-metre-high industrial buildings required 1.5 metres in front and one metre on the remaining three sides. Now, only 1.5 metres in front and one metre on either the left or right side is sufficient. For 15-metre-high buildings, earlier norms mandated 3 to 10 metres in front and 1.5 to 8 metres on the other sides. These have now been reduced to 2 to 6 metres in front and 1.5 to 6 metres on the remaining sides.

The revised FAR policy also promotes integrated development. Up to 15 percent of general industrial plots can now be used for employee accommodation. Additionally, 10 percent of industrial plots measuring at least 50 acres can be allocated for residential and commercial buildings.

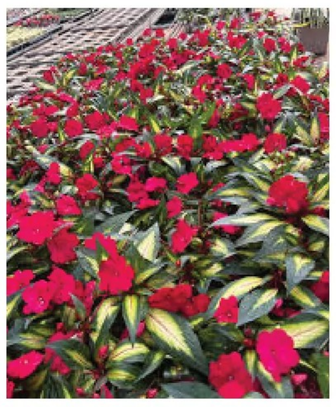
Patil said the reforms reflect the government's commitment to fostering a smooth and progressive business ecosystem in Karnataka.

B'luru's rose trade set to cross one crore stems this Valentine

BENGALURU

The city's love affair with roses is in full bloom this Valentine's season, with the International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB) expecting auction volumes to cross one crore stems.

According to IFAB Assistant General Manager A.M. Veena, the number of rose stems auctioned between February 1 and 12 has already touched 88.3 lakh, surpassing last year's total of 88.1 lakh recorded between February 1 and 14. With an additional 10 to 13 lakh stems likely to be traded by Saturday, this year's tally is set to break all previous records.



Bengaluru traders are witnessing a sharp surge in rose sales ahead of Valentine's Day celebrations.

Over 70 percent of roses sold in and from Bengaluru pass through IFAB, while the remainder are sourced directly from growers and traded in open markets such as KR Market. IFAB Managing Director and Joint Director of Horticulture M. Viswanath said demand began rising as early as February 1 this year, ahead of Rose Day on February 7, unlike previous years when the spike typically started around February 7.

The surge in demand has pushed up prices by 10 to 15 percent. While roses were priced at Rs 14–16 per stem last year, this year's average stands at Rs 16–18, with premium varieties touching Rs 20 per stem.

Major rose-growing regions supplying the city include Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Anekal and Hoskote, along with Hosur in Tamil Nadu. From Bengaluru, roses are shipped to metro cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam, besides international destinations including Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand and Dubai.

The region around Bengaluru has more than 1,500 hectares under rose cultivation. Viswanath noted that rainwater harvesting has been made mandatory for farmers availing subsidies for polyhouses, enabling them to store and utilise large quantities of rainwater annually. Rainwater, with near-zero electrical conductivity, enhances nutrient absorption and improves flower quality.

ED moves HC seeking cancellation of bail to MLA K.C. Virendra

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court issued notice to Chitradurga Congress MLA K.C. Veerendra alias Pappi on an application filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) seeking cancellation of the bail granted to him in a money laundering case linked to alleged online and offline betting activities.

Veerendra was granted bail on December 30, 2025, by the Special Court for People's Representatives after being arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Challenging this order, the ED has approached the High Court contending that the bail requires reconsideration.

A bench headed by Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav heard preliminary submissions by the ED's counsel, who argued that the special court erred in granting relief to the accused despite the seriousness of the allegations. After hearing the submissions, the court issued notice to Veerendra and adjourned further hearing.

According to the ED, searches were conducted on August 22 and 23, 2025, at 31 locations across the country, including Chitradurga, Bengaluru, Hubballi, Jodhpur, Gangtok, Mumbai and Goa. The raids covered casino establishments such as Puppy Casino Gold, Ocean Rivers Casino, Puppy's Casino Pride, Ocean 7 Casino and Big Daddy Casino.

The agency alleged that Veerendra operated betting platforms under names such as King 567 and Raja 567. During the searches, officials reportedly seized Rs 12 crore in cash, Rs 1 crore in foreign currency, gold ornaments worth Rs 6 crore, 10 kg of silver, four vehicles, 17 bank accounts and two lockers.

Veerendra was arrested in Gangtok, Sikkim, on August 23, 2025. While he was later granted bail, the ED has now sought cancellation of that relief.

HC stays probe against minister's PS

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has granted an interim stay on the Lokayukta investigation against Sarfaraz Khan, private secretary to Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, in a case alleging possession of assets disproportionate to known sources of income. The order was passed by a bench headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna while hearing a petition filed by Sarfaraz Khan seeking quashing of the FIR registered by the Karnataka Lokayukta police and the proceedings before the subordinate court.

HC directs state to establish municipal trust property management system

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has directed the state government to consider establishing a Municipal Trust Property Management System (MTPMS) as a unified digital platform for all public properties governed under the Karnataka Municipalities Act.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj observed that the proposed system should function as a "single source of truth" by integrating existing platforms such as Bhoomi, Mojini, e-Municipalities and Sakala. The court suggested assigning a unique Trust Property Identification Number (TPIN) to each municipal trust property to ensure transparency and accountability.

The judge clarified that properties such as lakebeds, open spaces and streets vest

with municipal councils only in a fiduciary capacity as trustees, and not as absolute owners. The Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, was designated as the administrative nodal authority responsible for policy oversight, coordination and enforcement. The Principal Secretary, Department of E-Governance, was named the technology nodal authority.

The court barred the sale, lease or alienation of such properties without prior government approval. It also directed the creation of a public digital portal displaying municipality-wise trust properties and enabling citizens to report encroachments or misuse, subject to safeguards.

Municipal councils must submit quarterly compliance reports, district committees bi-annual reports and a state-level committee an annual status report. The court stressed that responsibility must be fixed on officials found facilitating illegal alienation or encroachment, with disciplinary action initiated as per law. A compliance report has been sought by March 26.

The directions came while allowing a petition filed by Syed Matin Abbas of Periyapatna in Mysuru district. The court quashed the cancellation of his building licence by the town municipal council in November 2013, holding that the revocation was unsustainable in law.

Centre's nod will clear way for Mekedatu, UKP projects: D.K. Shivakumar

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday said the state government is ready to implement the Mekedatu balancing reservoir and the Upper Krishna Project (UKP) once the necessary approvals are granted by the Centre. He expressed confidence that the Union government would extend cooperation.

Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, was speaking at the inauguration of the International Dam Safety Conference held at the JN Tata Auditorium of the Indian Institute of Science.

Highlighting Bengaluru's rapid growth, he noted that the city, with a population of nearly 1.5 crore, has become a global hub attracting industries and investors from around the world. "The world looks at India through Bengaluru. It is our responsibility to ensure adequate drinking water supply. The Mekedatu project is aimed at meeting this demand in a balanced manner," he said, adding that the recent Supreme Court verdict has been favourable to the state's position.

The Deputy CM said the Mekedatu project would help supply drinking water to Bengaluru and surrounding regions while also generating around 400 MW of power. On the Upper Krishna Project, he said the government has adopted a transparent policy and is committed to providing fair compensation to farmers under the 2013 land acquisition law. He added that irrigation facilities have been extended to 1.72 lakh acres by December 2025.

Shivakumar also called for relaxation of the 500-metre restriction around dams under safety guidelines to promote tourism and support local economies. Emphasising the importance of dam safety, he said many dams are over 60 years old and require urgent repairs. With climate change leading to extreme rainfall and floods, he stressed that preparedness and modernisation of dam infrastructure are essential for the future.

Bengaluru South Corporation seals 19 PGs over lack of facilities

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru South City Corporation has initiated stringent action against paying guest (PG) accommodations operating in violation of civic and safety norms within its limits. Following inspections, 19 PGs were sealed and a total fine of Rs 61,000 was imposed on owners.

Officials said 89 PG accommodations were inspected across multiple wards. The inspections revealed several irregularities, including lack of access to clean drinking water, unhygienic living conditions, inadequate kitchen facilities, absence of fire safety equipment and failure to install CCTV cameras. Authorities stated that such deficiencies pose serious risks to residents, many of whom are students and working professionals.

In Padmanabhanagar, three PGs were fined Rs 5,000 each for non-compliance. In Jayanagar, 13 PGs were inspected, leading to a fine of Rs 11,000 and the sealing of three establishments. In the Bengaluru South zone, 18 PGs were checked, Rs 9,000 was collected in fines and four were sealed.

In BTM Layout, 24 PGs were inspected and three were sealed for serious violations. Bommanahalli recorded the highest number of violations, with 32 PGs inspected, Rs 39,000 collected as fines and nine establishments sealed.

Corporation officials said inspections will continue in the coming days to ensure PG accommodations adhere to safety, hygiene and infrastructure standards. Owners have been warned to rectify deficiencies immediately or face further action.

Byrathi Basavaraj sent for ECHO at Jayadeva, to be produced before judge Saturday

BENGALURU

BJP MLA B A Basavaraj, popularly known as Byrathi Basavaraj, was granted a day's reprieve by a court which directed that he undergo an echocardiogram at Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. The judge instructed the investigating officer to produce him on Saturday along with the medical reports to decide on police custody or judicial remand.

The CID arrested the MLA on Thursday in connection with the murder of history-sheeter Biklu Shiva after the Supreme Court of India denied him pre-arrest bail. On Friday, police completed preliminary medical tests and sought his custody for further investigation. Deputy SP Gowtham filed the remand application, while Special Public Prosecutor Ashok Nayak represented the CID. The defence argued that Basavaraj had already cooperated with the investigation and cited his heart condition, including a prior stent procedure, opposing custodial interrogation. The prosecution contended that he had misled the court earlier and was in contact with the prime accused.

PRESERVE CULTURE

B'lore varsity hosts intl conference on food & humanities

BENGALURU

Bangalore University organised an international conference titled 'Food Practices in the Global South' at its Jnana Bharathi Campus, bringing together scholars and researchers from India and abroad. The event was hosted by the Department of English in collaboration with the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies in India (IACLALS).

Vice-Chancellor Dr S.M. Jayakar, speaking as Chief Guest, highlighted the growing relevance of humanities, social sciences, arts and literature in a rapidly digitising world shaped by artificial intelligence. He said literature and cultural studies deepen human understanding and foster social awareness.

Referring to the conference theme, he noted that food, though part of everyday life, offers rich insights into identity, culture, inequality and lived experiences. Studying food practices, he said, enables scholars to explore social

diversity and historical contexts. He added that English Studies has evolved beyond conventional literary analysis to embrace interdisciplinary and cultural perspectives.

Conference Convenor and Head of the Department of English, Prof. Shobha M., welcomed delegates and members of IACLALS. She announced that the event also marks the beginning of the department's Golden Jubilee celebrations, as it completes 50 years in 2025. Over the past five decades, the department has made significant contributions to literary, cultural and interdisciplinary research, she said.

Prof. Shobha added that the conference provides a vibrant platform for academic exchange and critical engagement with emerging themes in English Studies.

Registrar K.T. Shanthala, Conference Convener Prof. J. Sindhu, IACLALS President Asaduddin, faculty members, researchers and students attended the programme, making it a notable academic gathering at the university.

QUICK READ

CRIME

Man killed with stone in Shivamogga village

Shivamogga

A 36-year-old man was brutally killed after a stone was smashed on his head in Gajanur village. The deceased, Srinivas, a plaster worker from Hosamane area, had been staying in the village for work. Locals said he was seen drinking with another person near a cooperative bank before the incident. Police suspect a quarrel may have led to the murder. CCTV footage captured parts of the scene, but the suspect's face is unclear. Tunganagar police have registered a case and are examining nearby cameras as the investigation continues.

Dolly Dhananjay unveils Tagaru Kalaga trophies

Shivamogga

Sandalwood actor Dolly Dhananjay unveiled the Sangolli Rayanna, Veera Shivappa Nayaka, Bhagiratha, and Veera Sindhur Lakshmana trophies for the national-level Tagaru Kalaga competition. The event is being organized by Nammoor Balaga Shivamogga on February 15 as part of the Kote Marikamba Devi Jatra Mahotsava. Speaking on the occasion, the actor wished grand success to the popular Tagaru Kalaga held during the Shivamogga Mari Jatra. General coordinators K. Ranganath, Ideal Gopi, P.H. Malatesh, and several other organizers and volunteers were present, expressing confidence that the event would attract huge participation and celebrate local culture.

Two government buses seized midway over dues

Chikkamagaluru

Two government buses traveling from Bengaluru to Sringeri were seized at Channarayapatna in Hassan district following a court order related to unpaid accident compensation. A team of lawyers stopped the buses and directed that they be taken to the Channarayapatna court premises. Passengers were reportedly asked to get down midway, leading to public outrage and inconvenience. One of the buses was heading toward Chikkamagaluru when it was halted. Authorities stated that the action was taken as compensation ordered by the court had not been settled. Further details regarding alternative arrangements for passengers are awaited.

Land scheme approved for SC/ST families

The minister said government land plots with basic facilities will be distributed to help poor families own land

DAVANAGERE

Karnataka Minister Satish Jarakiholi announced that the state government has approved a scheme to allot land to people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He said government land available in different places will be developed and converted into residential sites for eligible families.

Speaking to the media at Harihara in Davangere district, the minister said the decision would help many poor families get their own land. He explained that wherever government land is available, basic facilities will be created and plots will be distributed under the scheme.

Minister Jarakiholi also spoke about the upcoming state budget. He said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will present the budget on March 6. According to him, the government expects a good budget that will support development across Karnataka. He added that every year the budget size usually increases by Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000 crore, which helps fund welfare and development works.

Responding to questions about the Durga Utsav issue, the minister said the matter has already been brought to the notice of the Chief Minister and clarity will be given at the right time. He assured that there is no confusion regarding government decisions.

On the Shakti Yojana, Satish Jarakiholi clarified that the government has decided to provide free smart cards to women beneficiaries. He said the scheme is aimed at supporting women and making welfare delivery easier.

However, the minister declined to comment on remarks made by a Legislative Council member regarding foreign trips by Congress MLAs and speculation about leadership changes. He said he did not wish to respond to such statements.

The announcement on land allotment has raised hope among SC and ST communities, as owning land is seen as a major step towards security, dignity, and long-term social progress in the state.

MP seeks relief for MBBS students' futures

DAVANAGERE

Dr. Mallikarjun criticized the rule as unfair for Covid-19–affected students, citing ineffective online classes, postponed exams, mental stress, and called permanent disqualification inhuman and harsh

Davanagere Member of Parliament Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun has urged the Union Government to relax the four-attempt limit for the MBBS First Professional Year examination, citing concern for students' futures. On Friday, she submitted a request to Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda in New Delhi, asking for an additional attempt or re-evaluation.

More than 275 medical students in Karnataka are facing uncertainty because of the strict four-attempt cap set under Rule 7.7 of the Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2019. As per this rule, students who fail to clear the MBBS first-year exam within four attempts are disqualified from continuing their medical education.

Dr. Mallikarjun said this rule is unfair, especially for students affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. She explained that online classes during that period were not effective, exams were frequently postponed, and students faced mental stress and confusion. Because of these challenges, many could not prepare well and failed the exams. Disqualifying them permanently, she said, is inhuman and harsh.

She pointed out that several affected students have approached the courts. While the Karnataka High Court has ordered re-evaluation in some cases, universities have reportedly refused to carry it out. This has added to the students' distress and confusion.

Dr. Mallikarjun noted that the Karnataka Minister for Medical Education and the university's Pro-Chancellor have also written to the National Medical Commission, seeking a solution. They have requested a review of Rule 7.7 in the interest of students.

Urging the Centre to act with compassion, the MP demanded that the rule be reconsidered and that students be given one more chance or a proper re-evaluation. She said saving the careers of young medical students is essential for both families and the country's healthcare system.

Protesters opposed plans to privatize ATNCC and other colleges, citing staff transfers and resulting fear among students

Students protest move to privatize city colleges

SHIVAMOGGA

Students led by the National Students Union of India staged a protest in front of Acharya Tulsi National Commerce College, opposing plans to privatize colleges run by the National Education Committee. The protesting students submitted a memorandum to the NES Secretary demanding that the move be withdrawn immediately.

NSUI leaders said ATNCC is one of the most respected commerce colleges in the city and has shaped the careers of lakhs of students over several decades. They pointed out that the college was built with government support, including land, buildings, staff salaries, and grants. Because of this support, students from poor and middle-class families were able to study at low fees and build secure futures.

The protesters expressed serious concern over reports that the National Education Committee has applied to Kuvempu University to convert ATNCC and other colleges into unaided private institutions. They alleged that regular teaching and non-teaching staff, who are paid through government grants, are being transferred elsewhere, creating fear and uncertainty among students.

NSUI leaders recalled that the institution was founded by respected educationists with the goal of providing quality education to all sections of society. They said the present move reflects a shift toward commercialization, which goes against the original vision of affordable and inclusive education.

Students questioned the fairness of privatizing colleges that have received government aid for nearly fifty years. They warned that privatization would increase fees and deny opportunities to rural and poor students.

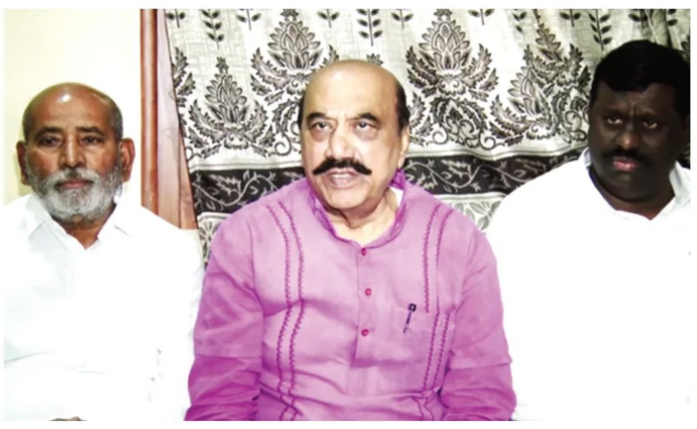
The protest was led by district NSUI president Vijayakumar and city leaders, along with hundreds of students from across Shivamogga. They warned of stronger protests if the decision is not reversed.

District job fair scheduled at Puttur on Feb 21

MANGALURU

A district-level job fair under the DDU-GKY NRLM (AAU-UEO) scheme will be held on February 21 at Puttur Vivekananda College of Engineering & Technology, organized by the Dakshina Kannada Zilla Panchayat. Over 80 companies from Bengaluru, Mangaluru, and other parts of the state will conduct live interviews in sectors such as IT, software, manufacturing, automobile, banking, finance, retail, education, and healthcare. The fair is open to youth who have completed SSLC, PUC, ITI, diploma, degree, engineering, master's, nursing, or paramedical courses. Job seekers are advised to register via the QR code on the poster and bring at least 15 resume copies, Aadhaar card, and passport-size photographs.

The job fair is part of the centrally sponsored Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY), aimed at providing free skill development training and employment opportunities to rural youth.



Running government tough with CM change talk: MLA Pattan

KOPPAL

Senior Congress MLA Ashok Pattan has said that it is difficult to run the state government if questions are raised about leadership, even when Siddaramaiah is the Chief Minister. Speaking to the media in Koppal, Pattan said repeated discussions about a change in leadership only create confusion and affect governance.

He said many leaders and party workers believe there will be no change of Chief Minister at present. Siddaramaiah himself has said that he will resign if the party high command asks him to do so. However, according to Pattan, the high command has not given any such instruction. "The Chief Minister is continuing because there is no order from the party leadership," he said.

Pattan added that unnecessary rumours are being spread as if there is a fight between Siddaramaiah and D. K. Shivakumar. He said both leaders are working together and there is no open conflict between them. He also mentioned that first-time MLA Iqbal Hussain may lack political maturity and is seen as close to Shivakumar, which has led to some misunderstandings.

Clarifying his stand, Pattan said he respects DK Shivakumar and would be happy if he becomes Chief Minister in the future. However, he said the feeling among many MLAs and also Rahul Gandhi is that Siddaramaiah should continue as he has given stable governance for the past two and a half years.

He further said leadership claims can be discussed later. "There are many leaders waiting for 2028. Whoever is lucky at that time will get the opportunity," Pattan said, adding that the focus should now remain on governance and public welfare.

Bail granted in Facebook post case

SHIVAMOGGA

The JMFC court at Hosanagar granted bail to Rajesh Hirimane, a close aide of Tirthahalli MLA Araga Gyanendra, who was arrested for sharing a derogatory Facebook post against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Rajesh Hirimane, a resident of Malali village in Hosanagar taluk, was arrested by Hosanagar police on February 11, 2026, and was sent to judicial custody. He spent one day in custody and was released after the court granted him bail on February 12.

According to police, the case relates to a social media post shared in September last year. The post allegedly carried an edited image showing half the face of Rahul Gandhi alongside a Pakistan Army officer named Asim, with the caption "One Agenda." The post triggered public criticism and complaints.

Following this, Hosanagar police registered a case under Section 353(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police said the post was objectionable and had the potential to disturb public harmony.

Speaking over the phone after his release, Rajesh Hirimane denied personal intent. He said he had only shared a post originally uploaded by Abhishek Malve, a senior BJP social media functionary. He claimed the complaint was filed under pressure and that he cooperated fully with the investigation.

He added that a similar case was earlier registered against Malve in Bengaluru, but it was later dismissed by the High Court. Rajesh said he respected the law and would follow all court conditions.

The case has drawn attention in the district due to its political background. Police said further legal procedures would continue as per law, and the investigation remains open for now today.

RELIEF FOR COFFEE GROWERS

Centre stops online auction of coffee crops

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has instructed officials to cancel the online auction of coffee crops and plantations, giving major relief to coffee growers. The direction came after a delegation led by Kota Srinivasa Poojary met her in Parliament and explained the problems faced by farmers due to the SARFAESI Act.

The delegation explained that many coffee growers are suffering because their land and crops are being auctioned online without their proper knowledge. They said more than 90 percent of coffee growers are small farmers who are not fully aware of legal procedures. Taking advantage of this, middlemen are allegedly misusing the system and buying coffee plantations at low prices through online auctions. There were also complaints that some bank officials were supporting such practices.

The team urged the minister to stop online auctions of coffee plantations and crops and to protect farmers from losing their land. They also requested that strict action be taken to prevent misuse of the law and ensure justice for growers.

After detailed discussions held in the presence of former Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda, Minister Sitharaman responded positively. She instructed the concerned authorities to immediately issue orders to stop online auctioning of coffee crops and plantations belonging to borrowers.

This decision has brought hope to coffee-growing regions, where farmers have been under severe stress due to falling prices, loans, and legal pressure. Growers believe the move will protect their livelihoods and prevent unfair loss of ancestral land.

Several leaders, including Vishweshwar Hegade Kageri, Dr. Manjunath, and Mallesh, were present during the meeting. MP Kota Srinivasa Poojary thanked Deve Gowda for his guidance and support, stating that the intervention would bring much-needed relief to thousands of coffee farmers across the state.

Six-Day Export Management Training Camp in Mangaluru

MANGALURU

A six-day Export Management Training Program (EMTP) will be held from March 9 to 14 at the Yeyyadi District Small Industries Association Hall, organized by Visvesvaraya Business Promotion Center and District Industries Center, Mangalore. The program aims to provide comprehensive guidance on international business and export procedures.

The training will cover topics such as Introduction to Export Business and WTO, Foreign Trade Policy, Export Procedures and Registration, Bank Financing for Exports, Export Promotion Organizations, Marine Insurance, Customs and Excise Formalities, E-Commerce, and Government Incentives. Participants will also visit local export units under the NMPA Panambur Pilot program.

Experts from DGFT, FEIO, Customs, Banking, ECGC, APEDA, CFTRI, CAPAC, and government officials will serve as guest lecturers. Certificates will be awarded to trainees. The program is especially useful for MSME entrepreneurs, exporters, traders, educators, and students interested in export business. Registration is open until February 28 on the Visvesvaraya Business Promotion Center website.

For details, contact the Deputy Director at 9480562936/8 073934390/7204753219.

QUICK READ

Sant Sevalal Jayanti celebration set on February 15

Chitradurga

Chitradurga district will celebrate 'Sant Sri Sevalal Jayanti' on February 15 at 11 am in the Deputy Commissioner's Office Hall. The event is jointly organized by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Kannada and Culture Department, and Municipal Council. Planning and Statistics Minister D. Sudhakar will inaugurate the ceremony, while MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi will preside. Key dignitaries including MP Govinda M. Karajol, MLAs, Legislative Council members, and heads of various state boards and commissions will attend. The Banjara (Lambani) community leaders and members will participate, with cultural performances by D. Rajanna and his team from Mallurahalli.

Three women sentenced in prostitution case

Chikkaballapur

Three women involved in an illegal prostitution ring in Chikkaballapur city have been sentenced to seven years in prison each by the 1st Additional District and Sessions Court, Judge Kantaraju S.V. The accused had lured young women with false job promises in Bengaluru. Along with imprisonment, fines were imposed: Rs. 7,000 for the first accused, Rs. 10,000 for Lakshminarasamma, and Rs. 15,000 for Sharada. The case investigation was led by District Superintendent of Police Kushal Choukse. Government prosecutor Jihida Banu D. Kannolli successfully presented evidence leading to conviction, confirmed the Women's Police Station inspector.

Tourists banned from Jogimatti Forest to prevent fires

After last summer's fire, the forest department banned afternoon tourist entry; restrictions remain until March rains encourage new growth

CHITRADURGA

The Jogimatti Wildlife Sanctuary, known as the "Ooty of Karnataka," has been closed to tourists for a month to prevent forest fires. The sanctuary, covering 10,000 hectares and standing 3,803 feet above sea level, is home to leopards, bears, deer, wild boars, porcupines, and over 200 species of birds. It also has lakes, waterfalls, and medicinal plants.

Last summer, part of the forest was damaged by fire. To avoid similar incidents, the forest department has banned tourists from entering. Earlier, visitors could come from 6 am to 11 am, but now no entry is allowed in the afternoons. Entry will remain restricted until the rains start in March, when new growth will appear in the forest.

The sanctuary is a popular tourist spot because of its natural beauty and wildlife. Aadumalleshwar Mini Zoo and Himawat Kedara Waterfalls are special attractions. The forest stretches across Chitradurga, Hiriyur, and Holalkere taluks. Visitors climbing to the hilltop cover 8 km on gravel roads, enjoying views of animals and greenery along the way.

DFO Gopya Naik said only officials, dignitaries, and government representatives are allowed during the closure. He urged people to follow the rules to protect wildlife and prevent accidents. Parking is arranged outside the sanctuary, and the forest roads can be risky during summer.

The temporary closure aims to keep the forest safe, protect animals, and avoid mishaps. Tourists are encouraged to plan visits after the rainy season when the sanctuary reopens safely.

Free bus travel for 2nd PUC students

KSRTC drivers must fully cooperate with students; special request stops near exam centers will be arranged, and information displayed on notice boards at all stations

BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has announced that students appearing for the 2nd PUC Annual Examinations 2026 will be allowed to travel free in all city, suburban, regular, and express buses on exam days. This facility will be available from February 28 to March 17, 2026.

The decision comes following a request from the Chairman of the Karnataka Board of School Examination and Evaluation, who highlighted that many students are assigned examination centers outside their own institutions. To ensure smooth and safe travel, students need to present their Second PUC Examination Admit Card while boarding.

All KSRTC drivers and operators have been instructed to provide full cooperation to the students. Special request stops will be arranged along bus routes near examination centers to make commuting easier. Authorities have also been asked to display this information on notice boards at all bus stations and KSRTC units.

The Chief Traffic Manager, S. Rajesh, said that this initiative aims to reduce stress for students and make access to examination centers convenient and timely. Students and parents have welcomed the move, which ensures safe, affordable, and organized travel during the crucial examination period.

This free travel facility is part of KSRTC's continuing efforts to support students and facilitate education in the state. Students from remote areas will especially benefit, allowing them to reach their exam centers without worrying about transport costs.

Officials have emphasized that this scheme should be strictly followed by all bus staff, ensuring students can travel without any hindrance and return safely after the exams.

Chitradurga faces drinking water supply disruption

CHITRADURGA

Residents of Chitradurga city will experience a disruption in drinking water supply due to maintenance work by BESCOM on the main pipeline of the Vani Vilas Sagar water project. The repair of power lines along the route from Vani Vilas Sagar to the city has caused interruptions in electricity, affecting the water supply system. With summer in full swing, the disruption may cause inconvenience to households relying on the pipeline. The Chitradurga Municipal Council has advised residents to use water from local tube wells and clean drinking water units in their areas. Officials also urged citizens to cooperate by using water sparingly during this period. The municipal commissioner emphasized that timely maintenance is necessary to ensure long-term water supply reliability, and public support will help minimize difficulties while repairs are underway. Residents are requested to plan their water usage accordingly.

Dr. Abhinav highlighted deworming prevents anemia, malnutrition, and weight loss, boosting immunity, school attendance, and learning outcomes

Chitradurga children urged to take deworming pills

CHITRADURGA

District Health Officer Dr. G.P. Renuprasad emphasized the importance of deworming for children while inaugurating the 'National Deworming Day' program at Buddha Nagar Health Center. He said worms can harm both physical and mental development, and taking deworming tablets is crucial for children aged 1 to 19 to grow healthy and strong.

Dr. Renuprasad explained that worms are parasites living in the human intestine, spreading through contaminated water, unclean food, and soil. Walking barefoot increases the risk of infection. He urged parents and children to maintain hygiene, wash hands regularly, and ensure proper sanitation.

Program organizer Dr. Abhinav highlighted that worm infections can cause anemia, malnutrition, loss of appetite, and weight loss. Regular deworming not only boosts immunity but also improves school attendance and learning outcomes. District Planning Development Officer Dr. Kashi warned that children are more prone to worm infestations due to open defecation and playing barefoot. He advised parents to monitor their children's health closely.

The event was attended by Taluk Health Officer Dr. Girish B.V., Medical Officer Dr. Surendra, Health Education Officers, Head Teacher Annapurna, Senior Health Inspector Srinivas, other health inspectors, and ASHA workers.

Authorities urged families to ensure children take the deworming tablets as scheduled, reinforcing the goal of building a healthier generation in Chitradurga.

Astrologer's advice leads to shocking murder

TUMAKURU

A shocking incident has come to light in Anupanahalli village of Tumakuru taluk, where a woman allegedly killed her mother after believing the words of an astrologer.

The deceased has been identified as Pushpalatha (55), a resident of Anupanahalli. She had been staying for a few days at her daughter Suchitra's house in Girinagar near Kyatsandra in Tumakuru city. Two days ago, Suchitra informed relatives that her mother had died and brought the body to Anupanahalli at night for the last rites.

However, villagers grew suspicious and alerted Pushpalatha's brothers. After examining the body, they suspected foul play and filed a complaint with the police.

During interrogation, police said Suchitra confessed to strangling her mother with a pillow. She allegedly acted after an astrologer told her that her mother was responsible for her father's death through black magic. Pushpalatha's husband, Babu Prasanna, had passed away about one and a half years ago.

Police have taken Suchitra into custody and are continuing the investigation. The incident has shocked villagers and raised concerns about blind belief in superstition. Authorities have urged people not to fall prey to such practices, warning that superstition can destroy families and lives.

Hebbal prepares to tackle summer water problem

BENGALURU

Urban Development and Urban Planning Minister and Hebbal MLA Bairati Suresh has said immediate action is being taken to prevent drinking water problems in the Hebbal constituency during the upcoming summer.

Speaking after launching multiple development works, the minister highlighted road construction and drainage improvements at key locations including Puneeth Rajkumar Circle in Nagashettyhalli, Anjanamurthy Circle in Lottegollahalli, Devasandra Circle near Kabaddi Ground, Krishnappa Layout near ISRO, Radhakrishna Temple in CIL Layout, and the road near Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Geddalahalli.

Over 25 new borewells have been drilled, and old ones repaired, to ensure adequate water supply. Officials have been directed to fix existing borewells and drill additional ones wherever required. In addition, tanker supply arrangements are ready for any areas that may face shortages.

The minister emphasized that precautionary measures this year are expected to prevent drinking water crises altogether. Road development is also underway, with nearly 300 roads being repaired or upgraded. Concrete roads are being constructed in selected locations to enhance durability. The total cost of these works is approximately 100 crore rupees, being executed simultaneously across the constituency. Minister Suresh said that the coordinated efforts of officials and modern infrastructure improvements will ensure residents face minimal inconvenience during summer.

Red Rose exports soar for Valentine's Day

CHIKKABALLAPUR

With Valentine's Day around the corner, red roses are in high demand, bringing smiles to farmers in Chikkaballapur. Lovers across the country and abroad are eagerly buying these flowers to express their feelings, and traders are exporting them at Rs. 20 per rose.

Farmers in Chikkaballapur and nearby Kolar districts have been cultivating roses in multiple colors, but red roses remain the most sought-after for Valentine's Day. Among the popular varieties are pink stem, glossy Waiyara, and thornless red Kangulabi, which are being purchased in large quantities by local and international traders.

Krishnareddy, a farmer from Anur Hoskote in Chintamani taluk, grows roses on his four-acre farm, cultivating 16 different colors. He said the red roses are particularly in demand during this season, as people gift them to express love on occasions like Rose Day, Propose Day, and Valentine's Day itself.

The spike in demand is giving a significant boost to the floriculture business, as roses grown locally are now reaching international markets. Farmers are optimistic about the sales, which not only support their livelihoods but also showcase Chikkaballapur's floriculture globally.

With love and roses closely linked, this Valentine's season has become a festive time for both lovers and growers alike.

Maratha Community Food Aid Applications Open

CHITRADURGA

The Karnataka Maratha Community Development Corporation is now accepting applications for the Aahar Vahini (Food Kiosk) Scheme for 2025-26. This initiative supports urban Maratha entrepreneurs in Chitradurga by providing a Rs. 3 lakh subsidy to renovate four-wheeled electric vehicles for food distribution. Remaining costs can be covered via bank loans.

To qualify, applicants must be aged 22 to 45, belong to the Maratha community (Category 3-B), and have an annual family income below Rs. 3 lakh. Additionally, a bank account linked to Aadhaar is required. Interested individuals should apply through the Seva Sindhu portal before the March 6, 2026 deadline. For complete details or assistance, candidates may visit the corporation's website or contact the District Manager at the D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation office. This program aims to boost local livelihoods and promote sustainable business opportunities.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Peter carlsson**, S/O Peter Ebenezer aged about 37 years residing at No 1565, 5th cross, sumathi nagar behind sumathi jain school, Robertsonpet KGF 563122.

I state that I have changed my name from **Peter carlsson peter ebnezer to Peter carlsson,** vide affidavit dated 12/02/2026 Sworn before **Thangaraj S,** Notary public at KGF court hall.

CH CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

ಆಪರ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಧೀಶರ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಜೆ.ಎಂ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಮೂಲ ದಾವಾ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 78/2026

ವಾದಿ: ಶ್ರೀ ಗೋಪಾಲಕೃಷ್ಣಯ್ಯ ಬಿನ್ ಮೇಲಪ್ಪ ವಾಸ-ಮದಗೊಂಡನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಕಾಡನೂರು, ಮದುರೆ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ವಿರುದ್ಧ

ಎದುರುದಾರರು: 1. ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಾಡನೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು 2. ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಹೆಸರಿನ ವಾದಿ ಮೂಲ ಧಾವ ನಂ:78/2026ನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳ ವಿರುದ್ಧ ಹೂಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಮಾನ್ಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯವು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ, ಧಾವ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ಮತ್ತಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಹಕ್ಕು ಬಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಾವೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವಂತೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನೀಡುವಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11-2-2026 ರಂದು ವಾದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ದಾವೆಯು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17-3-2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಧಾವ ವಿಚಾರವಾಗಿ ಹಕ್ಕು ಬಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ, ಅಂದು ನೀವು ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಆಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ನಿಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಪೂರ್ಣ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದ ವಕೀಲರ ಮೂಲಕವಾಗಲೀ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಾವೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ನಿಮ್ಮ ತಕರಾರುಗಳೇನಾದರೂ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ತಪ್ಪಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಗೈರುಹಾಜರಿಯೆಂದು ಧಾವೆಯನ್ನು ಇತ್ಯರ್ಥ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.02.2026 ರಂದು ಘನ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಮೊಹರಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy NO:74 measuring 9 acre 20 guntas of land is situated at Madagondanahalli Village, Kadanuru Gram Panchayathi, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bounded on: East by: Doddaballapur to Madhure Road West by: remaining Part in Sy NO:74 North by : Land bearing Sy No:73 South by: Land Bearing Sy NO:134.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

ಶ್ರೀ.ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀನಾರಾಯಣ ಎಂ.ಎನ್.
ವಾದಿಗಳ ಪರ ವಕೀಲರು, ದೊಡ್ಡ ಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ-561203.

MAHASHIVRATRI NANDI RITUALS

Grand Nandi Brahmarathotsava draws devotees this year

CHIKKABALLAPUR

The annual Nandi Brahmarathotsava will be held at the Sri Yoga and Bhoga Nandeeshwaraswamy Temple in Nandi village of Chikkaballapur taluk, drawing thousands of devotees during the Mahashivratri period. The temple is a Category A notified institution under the Muzrai Department and the festival is held every year with traditional devotion.

This year, the Brahmarathotsava on February 16 will be inaugurated by Higher Education Minister and district in charge Dr. M.C. Sudhakar in the presence of elected representatives, officials, saints, and devotees. A large crowd is expected from Chikkaballapur district, Bengaluru rural, Bengaluru urban, and nearby regions.

To ensure smooth darshan, the district administration and temple management have made detailed arrangements. From this year, around 1000 to 1500 devotees will be allowed daily through the normal queue. Special darshan has also been arranged with a receipt fee of Rs. 250. Devotees will enter through the main gate, have darshan of Arunachaleshwara, Bhoga Nandeeshwara, and Apitakuchambha Devi, and exit through the Kalyani side.

A cultural drama will be staged at 11 pm on February 15 for visiting devotees. Various committees, including etiquette, health, and cleanliness committees, have been formed for festival management.

Wheelchair access and direct darshan have been arranged for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Drinking water and mobile toilets have been provided. Sale of liquor will be banned in two nearby shops from midnight February 14 to midnight February 16.

Parking facilities have been arranged at designated locations around the temple, said Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu, appealing to devotees to cooperate. Officials requested pilgrims to follow guidelines and arrive early for peaceful celebrations during festival.

Vishwanath attacks state govt over development failures

Vishwanath urged making Hunsur a separate district named after D. Devaraj Urs, highlighting his land distribution legacy

HUNSUR

Senior MLC Vishwanath launched a sharp attack on the state government, alleging that it lacks character, health, and commitment to development. Speaking at a press conference at the Journalists' Association office in Hunsur, he said a government without moral strength and concern for public welfare cannot ensure progress.

He sarcastically remarked that the present administration, led by Siddaramaiah, has no character, no health, and even lacks good roads, adding that such leadership is pushing the state backward. He criticised today's politicians

and officials, saying many are more focused on money than meaningful work. According to him, discussions now revolve around bribes and land purchases, not public service.

Vishwanath said he has repeatedly urged the government to declare Hunsur taluk as a separate district and name it after former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs. He recalled that Urs had distributed land to the poor, and said his legacy remains alive. He questioned claims about free rice, stating that both the state and Centre contribute equally.

Rejecting allegations that he stalled development, Vishwanath said he worked sincerely during his tenure and completed projects within limited time. He also criticised internal power struggles in the ruling party, claiming promises made to the people are being broken. Former City Council President Ganesh Kumaraswamy was present at the conference.

He urged leaders to focus on roads, health, education, and jobs, instead of politics. He warned that people are watching closely and will respond democratically if governance continues to fail. Development, he stressed, must reach villages, farmers, workers, youth, women, and the poor without delay, bias, excuses, corruption, or empty slogans in Karnataka.

Manjanna's sacrifice praised by Arya Vaishya leader

HUNSUR

Karnataka State Arya Vaishya Development Corporation Board Chairman K. V. Ramaprasad has expressed deep gratitude to former MLA H. P. Manjanna for giving him an opportunity by sacrificing a reserved seat in the government.

After visiting the Sai Baba Temple and offering prayers, Ramaprasad spoke to reporters and said Manjanna was the only leader who trusted him and helped him get a place on the corporation board.

He said he would remain thankful throughout his life for this support and recognition. He added that many people want power, but very few are willing to step aside for others.

Ramaprasad said Manjanna refused the reserved seat for community representation, reflecting selflessness and commitment, and expressed confidence that taluk residents would support such leaders again

Ramaprasad said Manjanna clearly told him that he did not want the reserved seat and wanted someone from the community to get a chance. He said this decision showed Manjanna's selfless nature and commitment to community growth. He also expressed confidence that the people of the taluk would support such leaders again in the future.

Praising Manjanna further, Ramaprasad said that even though he is not an MLA now, he still deserves to be one. He said Manjanna worked hard for the development of the taluk and earned respect at the state level through his service and leadership.

On the occasion, leaders of the Arya Vaishya community felicitated Ramaprasad with a memento. State Mahasabha President Ravi Shankar, former District Cooperative Bank Director Naga Prasad, Vasamba Cooperative Society President Rajeshwari, member Sunith, Secretary Ajay Gupta, and several others were present and extended their support. Ramaprasad called upon everyone to work together in the coming days for the progress and welfare of the community.

All adults, including special categories, can participate; committees and Sanjeevini staff must coordinate with companies and educational institutions

District job fair focuses inclusive employment opportunities

MANDYA

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer K. R. Nandini said the district-level job fair scheduled on February 21 aims to provide employment to all job aspirants, with special focus on the specially-abled. She spoke while presiding over a preparatory meeting at the Zilla Panchayat Mini Hall.

The job fair will be held from 9 am to 5 pm at Mandya University, jointly organized by the Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Rural Skill Scheme, District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and the university.

She instructed officials to identify specially-abled candidates in advance and make suitable interview arrangements in a separate special room. She said wide publicity should be given taluk-wise and all elected representatives of the district should be invited as per protocol.

She suggested recording video and audio messages of

people's representatives and sharing them widely on social media and through Swachh Vahini vehicles in both rural and urban areas. Banners and posters should be displayed in educational institutions and crowded places.

Men, women, third gender persons, special category candidates and specially-abled persons above 18 years can participate. Employer registration committees should contact companies from various sectors and collect details of required qualifications. Taluk-level Sanjeevini staff should coordinate with educational institutions to register candidates.

She said unemployed persons from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, specially-abled groups, sexual minorities and other special categories must be registered. Candidates should report at the university campus by 9 am on the day.

She directed officials to arrange registration counters, a helpline, separate employer desks, food, drinking water, seating, medical facilities and ambulance services. Candidates must bring Aadhaar cards and qualification score sheets. Meal tokens will be provided to registered participants.

Farmers urged to become financially empowered by utilizing agricultural loans

KOLAR

Farmers from several villages and members of Women Self-Help Groups in Kolar district took part in the programme aimed at strengthening financial awareness and agricultural development.

Addressing the gathering, M. Gururajachar, Chief Manager, Bengaluru Regional Office of the Central Bank of India, said farmers are the backbone of the nation, especially in this region where agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood. He noted that initiatives such as the Agri Credit Outreach programme are designed to help farmers enhance productivity and double their income. He urged participants to make full use of such schemes to achieve financial empowerment.

Central Bank of India organized the Mega Agriculture Credit Outreach program at Doddapet Auditorium in Kolar

Detailed information was shared on dairy farming, the Kisan Credit Card scheme and opportunities in food processing units. Officials also highlighted key Central Government schemes that need to be widely implemented, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

Kolar Branch Head Smt. Subhashini said the Kisan Credit scheme has significantly benefited farmers and stressed the need to establish more food processing units in the region. She added that farmers can approach the bank branch for detailed guidance on agricultural loans.

During the event, loan sanction orders were distributed to beneficiaries. Among those present were Mr. Purushottam, former AGM, RBI; Smt. Vishalakshi from FLCC, Kolar district; Mr. Nataraj K., Secretary, Jeevan Mitra Social Service Society; along with bank officials and staff.

Deputy Commissioner makes surprise Pandavapura Office visit

MANDYA

The Deputy Commissioner of Mandya made an unexpected visit to the Pandavapura Taluk Office to review the functioning of various departments, staff attendance, and the delivery of public services.

During the inspection, he emphasized that all pending files in the e-office must be disposed of within the prescribed time. Officials were instructed to ensure timely issuance of certificates, including income, caste, residence, family tree, and land tenure, under the Sakala scheme. He warned that delays would result in strict disciplinary action.

Following the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner met with Sub-Divisional Officers and other officials, providing guidance on the speedy delivery of public services and effective implementation of government schemes. Sub-Divisional Officers, the Tahsildar of Pandavapura, and office staff were present. The visit underlined the administration's focus on accountability, efficiency, and better service for citizens

GOLDEN MASK HANDOVER...

The golden mask of Lord Parameshwar was handed over to Trayambakeshwara Temple authorities for Maha Shivaratri on Sunday. Kept in the Department of Muzrai's custody, devotees can view it only once a year. On Friday, temple priests received the mask under tight police security.

Wild elephant captured after fatal attack

MYSURU

The Forest Department has captured a 35-year-old wild elephant that had created fear in forest villages for nearly two months and allegedly killed a tribal resident named Mada. The elephant had also damaged railway tracks, vehicles, buildings, and farmers' crops in the region.

The animal reportedly came out of the Moleyur forest area in the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in search of food and entered farmland near Mathadakatte in Saraguru taluk. It destroyed standing crops, leading angry farmers and villagers to demand immediate action from forest officials.

Responding to the situation, forest staff tracked the elephant and carried out a special operation. With the help of trained camp elephants including Eklavya, Sugriva, Prashantha, and Ayyappa, officials tranquilized the animal while it was in a farm at Katavalu village. The elephant was later shifted safely to the Rampur camp.

The operation was conducted under the guidance of ACF D. Paramesh and CF Prabhakaran. Anesthesia specialist Dr. Waseem Mirza administered the tranquilizer. Officials said the elephant had an injury to its right eye and minor wounds.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, forest staff, with support from villagers, successfully drove another elephant back into the forest near Dadadahalli Hadi to prevent further conflict.

EDUCATION EMPOWERS ALL

'Schools teach life like caring mothers always'

MYSURU

Mysuru–Chamarajanagar Legislative Council member Dr. D. Thimmaiah said schools that shape life are like mothers, and giving back to one's school gives true meaning to success. He was speaking as chief guest at the 140th anniversary of the historic H. PBS School and the H.P.BS Maha Sangram programme in the city.

Dr. Thimmaiah inaugurated a new kitchen worth ₹5 lakh donated from his MLA fund. He said protecting government schools is urgent today, as they remain rays of hope for poor families. He added that during his tenure he treated education as

sacred work and believed that real taluk development comes from strengthening schools.

Former MLA and school alumnus H. P. Manjunath recalled that the school once had only 19 students and faced closure. He said sustained effort, a new committee, repairs, and a ₹11 lakh grant in 2011 helped rebuild it. Today, the school offers classes from LKG to Class 7, including English education, benefiting many poor children.

Sub-Divisional Officer Kavya Rani said government schools play a key role in producing talented citizens. She urged parents to support schools and guide children to limit mobile phone use.

Taluk Tahsildar Manjunath said government schools are the roots of the nation's future and must be preserved.

Several officials, teachers, SDMC members, parents, and students attended. Speakers agreed that government schools nurture values, discipline, and confidence, and deserve continued public support for inclusive, quality education.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ASMA**, W/o, Mustafa C.M.A, residing at No 633, 2nd Main, 9th Cross, Behind Police Station, Vinobanagara, K.G. Halli, Arabic College, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my name to **ASMA C.M.A**, vide affidavit dated: 13.02.2026, before Notary G.DAYANANDA, Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, **RAHAMATULLA SHARIFF HUSSAIN SHARIEF**, S/o, Husain Sharieff, Resident of Hosline Road Ward No 26, Hasan Dist, 573201, have changed my name to **RAHAMATHULLA SHARIFF**, vide affidavit dated: 13.02.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ABDUL SAMAD ALERA MOIDU**, S/o, Alera Ummer Moidu, Resident of No 197, Chinivada Hudikeri Hobali Begur Virajapete Tallul Virajpet Dist, 571216, have changed my name to **ALEERA ABDUL SAMAD**, vide affidavit dated: 13.02.2026 before notary B.A. LAKSHMINARAYANA RAO, Bengaluru.

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road, Bangalore.

No: EE/(PN)/TEND/PR/09/ 2025-26 **Date:13-02-2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only-Single Cover System)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Commissioner BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK KPPP Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through KPPP Platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the valid contractor Registration and shall be submitted through KPP Portal. (Standard Tender Document KW2).

Sl. No	Name of the Work/Est Cost (in Lakhs)/EMD in Rupees/Category.
	For General Category Works
1	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in ward no 72, D.J. Halli for the year 2025-26 (Deposit Contribution to Roshannagar Multistoried Individual houses). Estimate Cost : **Rs.30.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.60,000/-.**
2	Construction of New Culverts in ward Dubai Layout in ward no 48(71) Muneshwaranagar (2nd Call). Estimate Cost : **Rs.10.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.25,000/-.**
	For SC Category Works
1	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in ward no 73, S.K. Garden for the year 2025-26 (Deposit Contribution to Roshannagar Multistoried Individual houses). Estimate Cost : Rs.**30.00 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.30,000/-.**
2	Improvements to road & drain in Anwar Layout 1st Main and Surrounding in ward no 31(70) Kushalanagar for the year 2025-26 Estimate Cost : **Rs.40.00 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.40,000/-.**
3	Improvements to Drain & construction from Hindu Burial Ground Entrance to Ashrama Layout Entrance in ward no 71(48) Muneshwaranagar for the year 2025-26 (2nd Call). Estimate Cost : **Rs.40.00 Lakhs**, EMD **Rs.40,000/-.**
	For ST Category Works
1	Improvements to roads and drains at Muttumariyamma temple and Surrounding area in ward no 48(71) Muneshwaranagar for the year 2025-26 (2nd Call). Estimate Cost : **Rs.20.00 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs.25,000/-.**

Calendar of events: (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from KPPP portal : **20.02.2026, (2)** Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on :**25-02-2026 at 15:00 Hrs** noon in the office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560 005. **(3)** Last Date & Time for Receipts of tenders : **05-03-2026 up to 16:00 hours. (4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid : **06-03-2026 after 16:30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, Zone-1
Bengaluru North City Corporation

Stalin Reaffirms Women's Entitlement Scheme Ahead of Elections

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin has reaffirmed his government's commitment to the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai scheme,

asserting that the monthly financial assistance provided to women is not a welfare dole but a rightful entitlement. In an official statement addressed to beneficiaries, he made it clear that no political or administrative hurdle would be allowed to delay or dilute the support.

CM Stalin accused certain quarters of attempting to temporarily suspend payments for three months, citing the upcoming elections.

SC Grants Interim Bail to Vikram Bhatt

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Friday granted interim bail to Bollywood filmmaker Vikram Bhatt and his wife Shwetambari in connection with an alleged Rs 30 crore fraud case. The couple had been arrested from their Mumbai residence on December 7, 2025, and subsequently brought to Rajasthan following a complaint lodged by a Udaipur-based doctor.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed the immediate release of the couple. The matter has been posted for further hearing on February 19.

The case stems from an FIR registered on November 17 at Bhupalpura police station in Udaipur based on a complaint by Dr Ajay Murdia, owner of the Indira Group and Indira IVF. The complainant alleged that Bhatt and eight others collected substantial funds under the pretext of producing a biopic based on his wife.

According to the complaint, Dr Murdia was introduced to the project by Dinesh Kataria and later met Bhatt at Vrindavan Studio in Mumbai. It is alleged that Bhatt assured him that an investment of Rs 7 crore could result in the production of four films with projected returns ranging between Rs 100 crore and Rs 200 crore.

Earlier, on January 31, the Rajasthan High Court had rejected the bail applications of Bhatt, his wife, and another accused, observing that granting bail at that stage would be inappropriate as the investigation was ongoing.

With the Supreme Court now granting interim relief, the legal proceedings will continue as investigators examine the financial transactions and claims made in the complaint.

BNP Landslide Victory Reshapes Bangladesh Political Landscape Significantly

NEW DELHI

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is poised to form the next government in Bangladesh following a sweeping victory in the parliamentary elections held on February 12. The polls were conducted in the absence of the Awami League, led by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, dramatically altering the electoral landscape.

With the Awami League out of the contest, the BNP secured what is being described as a landslide mandate. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami (Jamaat) is expected to emerge as a distant second, marking a significant shift in parliamentary representation.

India has closely watched the developments, expressing optimism over the BNP's return to power. New Delhi has historically found it easier to engage diplomatically and economically with the BNP compared to the Jamaat, which is widely perceived as holding anti-India positions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first global leaders to congratulate BNP chief Tarique Rahman. In his message, Modi conveyed warm congratulations to Rahman for leading the party to a decisive victory, stating that the mandate reflected the trust of the Bangladeshi people in his leadership. He reaffirmed India's support for a democratic, progressive, and inclusive Bangladesh and expressed his eagerness to strengthen multifaceted bilateral relations while advancing shared development goals. While the BNP's win is seen as a positive development for India, analysts caution against overlooking the remarkable surge of the Jamaat. Historically, the party's parliamentary presence had been limited. It won ten seats in 1986, none in 1988, and 18 seats in 1991—its highest tally until now. The Jamaat boycotted the 1996 elections and did not contest the 2014, 2018, or 2024 polls.

However, the 2026 elections mark a turning point. The Jamaat is projected to win close to 70 seats, representing a dramatic rise in influence. Observers attribute this growth partly to its proximity to the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus. Its recent strong performance in student union elections further signaled this upward trajectory.

BJP questions Rahul Gandhi's silence over K'taka excise scam

NEW DELHI

The Karnataka BJP has questioned the silence of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on the alleged Rs 2,500 crore excise scam in the state. The Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, R. Ashoka, questioned Rahul Gandhi on Friday, In Parliament, Rahul Gandhi delivers performance daily by waving certain files.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ 'ಬಿ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್' ರಜತಾದ್ರಿ, ಮಣಿಪಾಲ ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0820-2574978 Email:ddwcdudupi@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಉನಿಉ:ಮಮಅಇ:ಬಾ.ಮೂ.ಪಿ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ :13/02/2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧೀನ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರು, ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ಸೇವೆಯ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಸಕ್ತರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಮಹಿಳಾ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬಿಬಿಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ರಜತಾದ್ರಿ ಮಣಿಪಾಲ ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ:0820-2574978 ಇವರನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-(ಅನುರಾಧ ಬಿ. ಹಾದಿಮನಿ)
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Chitradurga

Ph.08194 222733 E-mail:apmcchitradurga@rediffmail.com

No.AMD/APMC/C/Dev.W/Tender/947/2025-26, Date:9-2-2026

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Chitradurga, invites Tenders in two cover system as per KW-4 in http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible Contractors registered in e-procurement portal for undertaking Development Works sanctioned under Annual Action Plan for the year 2025-26. (Rs.121.00 lakhs)

INDENT NO: APMC/2025-26/ RD/WORK_INDENT833

LAST DATE FOR RECEIVING FILLED TENDERS 26-2-2026 @ 4-30 pm

Further queries for Tender terms & conditions login to Website: http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in & helpline No.080-22501216/ 25501227

Sd/-Secretary, A.P.M.C. Chitradurga
Sd/-Administrative Officer, A.P.M.C. Chitradurga

RO.No.672:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2025-26

Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department (PWD), Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru

Tender Postponement Notice No.:08/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

Tender Invitation Notice

Ref: Short Term Tender Notice No. 30 & 31/2025-26 Dates: 31.01.2026 & 07.02.2026

In the above-mentioned tender notice, tenders are invited from eligible contractors through the KPPP portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) for the work of Serial Number: 4 & 9 (General Category) in Short-Term Tender Notice No.: 30 and the work of Serial Number: 4 (General Category) in Short-Term Tender Notice No.: 31 under the account head 4059-80-051-0-60-132 Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Program Other Capital Expenditures pertaining to the Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru Sub-Divisions.

The last date for submission of tenders was fixed as 16.02.2026. Due to technical reasons, the date of submission of the tender has been postponed and has been rescheduled to 25.02.2026. There will be no changes in other respects.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/164/1837

Government of Karnataka
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARTMENT Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division Belagavi

Near Krishna Devaraya Circle,
1" Floor of PRED Division, Nehru Nagar -590010

No.RDW&S/ BGM/PB-4/TND-23/ KW- 4/2025-26/2198 Dated:13/02/2026

ITEM RATE TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT)

I) The Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Belgaum invites item rate tenders on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State Government from the eligible contractors II) Indent Number:9861 Calendar events are as follows : i) Last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-portal: 24-02-2026 before17:00hours. ii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 25-02-2026 before17:30Hours iii)Date of Opening of Financial Bid:After Technical Bid approval IV)Amount put to Tender, EMD, work completion period, Class of contractor ,eligibility criteria are as published in e-procurement portal. (Including Rainy Season).

More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inby clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Belgaum

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1844/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Command Area Development Authority Cauvery Basin Project-Mysuru

Executive Enngineer, No.02 Division, CADA, CBP Vijayanagara 1st Stage Mysuru-17

Phone Number: 0821-2414090 Email-eecada2mysore@gmail.com

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 27/2025-26 Dated: 12.02.2026

(Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of the Administrator, CADA, CBP, Mysore, The Executive Engineer, CADA No.2 Division, CBP, Mysuru has invited tender in Two Tender Document system for 02 Atchkat Road works in Chamarajanagara District as per Standard Tender Document KW-4 from eligible tenderers through KPPP Portal. Interested bidders may access bidding documents from http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office during working hours. The tenderers can download the tender documents from 13.02.2026. The last date for Tender Queries and Clarifications (Through KPPP-Portal) is 16.02.2026 upto 4:00 PM. The last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid is 20.02.2026 upto 4:00 PM. Date of opening of Technical Bid is 21.02.2026, onwards and Financial Bid will be opened after obtaining approval of Technical Bid from competent Authority.

For more Condition & details Visit the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Note: If there are any corrections/ modifications, it will be published only through KPPP Portal

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
No.02 Division CADA, CBP, Mysuru

NO DIPR CHANAGAR: 708:2025-26

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ1.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:50:2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:11-02-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ-05 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 (4ನೇ ಕರೆ-01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)-01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಅನುಪಯುಕ್ತ ಸ್ಕ್ರಾಪ್ ವಾಹನ ಇ-ಹರಜು-01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 08 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91-9045010000 +91-9068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಮತ್ತು ಇ-ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಹರಾಜು ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13-02-2026 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 21-02-2026 ಸಮಯ : 16.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 21-02-2026 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 23-02-2026 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/737/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

Chikkmagaluru Urban Development Authority

Hiremagaluru Housing Layout, Phase-I, Hiremagaluru - Kadur Bypass Road, Kalyana Nagara, Chikkamagaluru-577102. www.chikmagalur.uda.gov.in

Tel: 08262-295712 Email: cmr_cudackm@yahoo.in

No: CUDA:Shri.ABVP:corner site:e-tender/notice:03:2025-26/3410 Date: 09.02.2026

Announcement of e-auction of corner/commercial plots / sites of Shri A.B. Vajpayee Housing Layout, Uppalli-Indavara village, adjacent to Hirekolale Road, developed by Chikkamagaluru Urban Development Authority.

The date of opening of e-auction of plots from Serial No.: 01 to 127 will be on Date: 10.02.2026 from 10.00 hrs (IST).

Last date for expression of interest for participation in the e-auction: Date: 04.03.2026 up to 17:30 hrs (IST).

The starting date of direct bidding of e-auction of plots from Serial No.: 01 to 127 will be on Date: 05.03.2026 from 11.00 hrs (IST) up to 17.00 hrs (IST) (Evening 05.00 PM) (Delta Time 5 minutes available).

The E.M.D. fee to be paid to participate in the e-auction is Rs. 50,000/- per bid/site, and the minimum bid modification amount for bids is Rs. 10,000/- per bid/site.

For more information on participating in the e-auction, please visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- Commissioner, Chikkamagaluru Urban Development Authority, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm/No.161/25-26/ksmca/1838

BANK OF BARODA

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda (A Government of India Undertaking)

VONDARAGUPPE BRANCH
Govt. Silk Farm Post, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District-562161. E-mail: Vonder@bankofbaroda.com.
IFSC CODE BARBOVONDAR

GOLD SALE NOTICE (AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ITEMS)

The under mentioned person/s are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before **02.03.2026** failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public/ Offline auction at the cost of the borrower at the **Bank of Baroda, Vondaraguppe Branch** premises at **03.03.2026** on **11.00 AM** or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the bank.

Customer Name & Address	Account Number	Gross weight	Net weight	Outstanding Balance
Mr. Hemanth Kumar 6th Cross, Maruthi badavane, Channapatna, Ramanagaram 562160	11760600011516	5.80 grams	5.00 grams	Rs.17,000+ Intersest+ Other Charges

Date : 13.02.2026
Place : Ramanagara

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: 21.02.2026 upto 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Shifting of 11 KV HT line & LT Lines at KHB Layout Kakaramanahalli, Borehalli & Muddapura, Bidadi, Ramanagara, Bengaluru South District. **Work Indent :** KHB/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 710 & IFT No.155/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026. **Amount put to tender:** 24,56,528/-.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5640/AKAR/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.

No: EE/PWD/HSN/AE-3/2025-26/ DATED: 10.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 38/ 2025-26, Dated: 10.02.2026

Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-2 & KW-3 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD and the contractors belonging to Category-2(A) shall be domicile of the State of Karnataka for more than 10 years. Tenders Invited through E-Procurement for total Number of 04 Works under PWD Hassan Division jurisdiction. In that 01 work is reserved for Category-2(A) Contractors. The minimum estimated amount is Rs.50.00 Lakhs and maximum estimated amount is Rs.100.00 Lakhs. The amount mentioned in tender notification is sanctioned estimated cost, but EMD & class of contractor is considered based on amount put to tender which excludes GST & other charges. Last date & time for receipt of tender is on 23.02.2026 @ 16.00 hours. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/1066/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

O/o Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Division,
PL-88 Abhirudhi Bhavan, Chimalgi Layout, High court Road, Kalaburagi-02, E-mail : ksdb.guldiv@gmail.com

No:KSDB/EE/KLB.DVN/KPPP-Tender/2025-26/964 Date:11.02.2026

:: INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER ::

Karnataka Slum Development Board, Kalaburagi Division has invited the tender for providing Basic Amenities for G+ Houses under PMAY-HFA(U) Scheme Head of Account: 5475-00-115-0-06) Housing Scheme Projects as per K.W. 3 & 4, Two Cover Model, Eligible Class-I PWD registered Contractor can participate through KPP Portal, the details of works as mentioned below.

Calendar of events: 1) Last Date & Time for tender Submission: **26.02.2026 Evening 16.00 Hrs**, 2) Last date & time for opening Technical Bid: **02.03.2026 Morning 11.00 Hrs**, 3) Last Date & Time for opening Financial Bid: Will be intimated to the eligible bidders.

Sl No	Indent No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (in Rs.)	E M D Amount (in Rs.)	Eligible Category of Contractors
1	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT391	Providing & laying of water supply distribution work for100 Houses out of 500 (G Plus 2) dus constructed at sy no.147/B&K at Humnabad town under PMAY-HFA.	17003481.77	255052.23	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
2	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT393	Providing and laying of Sewage network and construction of OHT Tank for 500 G PLUS 2 dus constructed at sy no.147/B&K at Humnabad town under PMAY-HFA.	20102024.36	301530.37	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
3	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT395	Providing External Electrification work for 500 (G Plus 2) dus constructed at sy no.147/B&K at Humnabad town under PMAY-HFA.	8286061.37	165721.00	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
4	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT385	Estimate For Providing CC Road to 636(GPlus1) Houses Under PMAY-HFA at Chincholi Town, Kalaburagi, District.	20078335.07	301175.03	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
5	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT386	Providing RCC Drain and Aspalt Road to 636 (G Plus 1) (1263) Houses under PMAY-HFA works at Chincholi Town Kalaburagi District.	19110084.21	286651.26	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
6	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT387	Providing Septic Tank Water Supply & Borewell works to 636 (G Plus 1) (1263) Houses under PMAY-HFA (Septic Tank Water Supply & Borewell) works at Chincholi Town Kalaburagi District.	12291625.94	184374.39	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
7	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT388	Providing External Electrification work to 636 (G Plus1) (1263) Houses under PMAY-HFA works at Chincholi Town Kalaburagi District.	10935535.5	164033.03	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
8	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT390	Providing O.H.T GLSR and Pump house to 636 G plus 1 (1263) Houses under PMAY-HFA works at Chincholi Town Kalaburagi District.	20483951.64	307259.27	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
9	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT389	Providing RCC drain & External Elecrification for 200 Group houses under PMAY-HFA Scheme at Sy no.186 in Shorapur Town.	17058294.23	255874.41	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
10	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT392	Providing RCC drain & External Elecrification for 300 Group houses under PMAY-HFA Scheme at sy no.95/6 & 95/1 in Shorapur Town.	18795850.23	281937.75	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
11	KSDB/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT378	Construction of CC Roads for 1473 Du G plus 2 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing for all (urban) in Shahabad City(Part-A)	19670812.61	295062.19	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
12	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT379	Construction of RCC Drain works for 1473 Dus G Plus 2 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing for All Uraban in Shahabad City.	20488464.11	307326.96	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
13	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT382	Construction of UGD Works For 1473 Dus (G Plus 2) Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing For All (Urban) In Shahbad City. (Part-A)	20081340.24	301220.10	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
14	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT380	Construction of UGD Works for 1473 DUs (G Plus 2) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing For All (Urban) in Shabad City. (PART-B) (PART-B)	8606427.53	172128.55	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
15	KSDB/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT381	Providing Water Supply works for 1473 Dus GPLUS 2 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Housing for All (Uraban) in Shahabad City.	20491734.4	307805.46	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ
16	KSDB/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT384	Providing RCC drain culvert and internal electrification to 200 G PLUS 2 houses at Shahapura town Sy No.299 under PMAY-HFA(U)	15245109.65	228676.64	ಎನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1077/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Slum Development Board, Kalaburagi Division, Kalalburagi.

Rotten Meat Trade: MLAs Demand Crackdown

Lawmakers seek strict action, property attachment, stronger enforcement.

JAMMU

Several legislators in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday demanded stringent action against those involved in the illegal trade of rotten meat, including the attachment of properties to deter offenders. The issue was raised in the Assembly amid growing public concern over food safety and rising health risks.

Members of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (NC), including MLAs Mubarak Gul, Mir Saifullah, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, and Hasnain Masoodi, pressed for strict enforcement and preventive measures while raising questions related to food adulteration and the sale of spoiled meat. They

voiced serious concern over increasing health complications and alleged that the consumption of contaminated food could be contributing to the rise in cancer cases and frequent disease outbreaks.

Mubarak Gul urged authorities to track down individuals engaged in the illegal trade and attach their properties as a strong deterrent. He stressed that exemplary punishment would send a clear message and prevent recurrence of such activities.

Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah called for the establishment of slaughterhouses in every Municipal Committee to ensure hygienic meat processing and better regulatory oversight. He also sought a half-hour discussion in the House to deliberate comprehensively on the matter.

Other members emphasized the urgent need to strengthen manpower within enforcement agencies, improve inspection mechanisms, and introduce stricter monitoring systems to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Responding to the concerns, Health Minister Sakina Itoo acknowledged the shortage of staff in the department, admitting that manpower deficiency remains a significant challenge. She informed the House that the recruitment process to fill vacant posts has already been initiated, underlining that public health concerns cannot be taken lightly.

However, the minister clarified that under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Food Safety Officers are not empowered to make arrests. Their authority includes inspecting premises, collecting food samples, issuing improvement notices, suspending or cancelling licences, launching prosecutions, and filing complaints in courts. Arrest powers, she noted, rest solely with the police under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

QUICK READ

Annpurna Devi to spearhead conference on workplace safety

New Delhi

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi will lead discussions on the creation of safe, dignified and harassment-free workplaces for women across sectors at a national conference beginning here on Saturday, an official said. At the 'National Conference on Safety of Women at Workplace (SHe-Box)', being organised by the Ministry, Minister Annpurna Devi will administer a National Workplace Safety Pledge, according to an official statement. An international roundtable with UN agencies and multilateral institutions on global best practices in workplace safety will also be held, bringing together around 1,500 participants from more than 100 government and private organisations.

J&K MLAs demand attachment of property penalty

Jammu

Several MLAs on Friday demanded stronger action, including attachment of property, against those involved inthe rotten meat trade in J&K. National Conference (NC) MLAs Mubarak Gul, Mir Saifullah, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, and Hasnain Masoodi demanded strict enforcement, stronger preventive measures and even attachment of properties of those involved in the rotten meat trade as they raised the issue through their questions related to food adulteration and sale of rotten meat. The lawmakers expressed serious concern over rising health issues and alleged that consumption of rotten food could be contributing to increasing cases of cancer and frequent outbreaks of diseases.

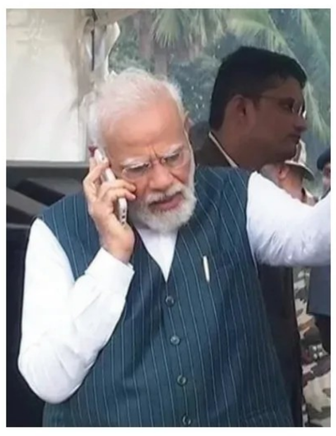
India reaffirms commitment to peace, progress, bilateral ties

Modi Congratulates Tarique Rahman On Bangladesh Election Victory

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a telephonic conversation with Tarique Rahman, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), congratulating him on his party's sweeping victory in the Bangladesh parliamentary elections. The BNP-led alliance secured 210 seats, comfortably crossing the majority mark and paving the way for the formation of a new government in Bangladesh.

Following the phone call, PM Modi shared details of the conversation on X, expressing delight at speaking with Rahman and congratulating him on what he described as a remarkable victory. He conveyed India's best wishes and support for Rahman's efforts to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Bangladesh. Emphasising the close relationship between the two countries, Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to peace, progress, and prosperity for both nations, highlighting their deep-rooted historical and cultural ties.



Earlier in the day, after election results were announced in Dhaka, the Prime Minister had extended warm congratulations to Rahman for leading the BNP to a decisive mandate. He noted that the outcome reflected the trust reposed by the people of Bangladesh in Rahman's leadership. Modi also reiterated that India would continue to support a democratic, progressive, and inclusive Bangladesh and expressed his willingness to work together to strengthen multifaceted bilateral relations and advance shared development goals.

Tarique Rahman is set to take oath as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh on Saturday, marking the return of a male prime minister to the country after nearly 35 years. The BNP's landslide win signals a major political shift, while the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, often described as a radical outfit, is expected to finish a distant second.

The development is being closely watched in New Delhi, with expectations that the new government in Dhaka will further deepen cooperation in trade, connectivity, security, and regional development.

Modi to kickstart several projects during one-day Assam visit

GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend an air show at Moran in upper Assam's Dibrugarh district and inaugurate several key infrastructure and education projects across the state, officials said on Friday. According to the schedule, the Prime Minister will depart from New Delhi early Saturday morning and arrive at Chabua airport at around 7.15 a.m. From Chabua, he will proceed to Moran in Upper Assam, where he is scheduled to attend an air show showcasing advanced aerial manoeuvres.

The air show and inauguration of Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) of aircraft on the national highway at Moran is being seen as a major event, highlighting the growing strategic importance of Upper Assam and the state's expanding role in India's defence and aviation preparedness.

Radha Devi Saraogi Passes Away, Leaders Mourn Loss

Mother of Bihar BJP chief dies at 72.

PATNA

Radha Devi Saraogi, mother of Bihar BJP President Sanjay Saraogi, passed away on Friday at the age of 72 after a brief illness. She had been undergoing treatment at P. D. Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai, where she breathed her last.

Known for her deep religious faith and active involvement in social work, Radha Devi Saraogi was regarded as a compassionate and simple woman who touched many lives through her quiet service and dedication. Her demise has cast a pall of grief over her family, relatives, well-wishers, and members of the political fraternity across Bihar. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary expressed profound sorrow over her passing. Both leaders personally spoke to the bereaved family over the phone and conveyed their heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. In his condolence message, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar described Radha Devi Saraogi as a kind-hearted and simple woman with a strong inclination towards social service. He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and for strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss. Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary also shared his grief, stating that he was deeply saddened to learn about the demise of the revered mother of the BJP state president. He prayed for the departed soul to attain a place at God's feet and for the bereaved family to find the strength to endure the immense sorrow.

Sanjay Saraogi, who was elected as an MLA from Darbhanga City in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, was recently appointed as the state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by the party's top leadership. He is considered an influential leader in the Mithilanchal region and enjoys a strong grassroots presence in the state. Meanwhile, family members are bringing the mortal remains of Radha Devi Saraogi back to Bihar from Mumbai. Her last rites are scheduled to be performed later on Friday in accordance with family traditions.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, Ministers open 51 new Ayushman Arogya Mandirs

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday led her Cabinet Ministers and BJP legislators in launching 51 new Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across the city, taking the number of these neighbourhood health centres to 370 within one year. Speaking at an event in Chhatarpur constituency, Chief Minister Gupta hit out at the previous Congress government, which was in power for 15 years and the Aam Aadmi Party government, which ruled for 11 years.

They came and went away without really resolving public grievances, but ever since voters have shown trust in the BJP and brought it to power, Delhi has started returning to the development track, she said.

In a message on social media, she said, Giving momentum to the resolve of Viksit Delhi, today development works worth more than Rs 322 crore were inaugurated for Viksit Chhatarpur Assembly.

She said, Chhatarpur's history is intertwined with the soul of Delhi's history. Every inch of land here bears witness to Delhi's journey of development. But for a long time, previous governments had put the brake on the development of this area. In just one year, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our government has connected Chhatarpur to the mainstream of development.

Through these projects inaugurated today, extensive work will be undertaken on road construction and repair, strengthening of drains, upgradation of schools, resolution of traffic problems, and enhancement of basic infrastructure, she said.

This development will make the lives of local people easier and connect the area to new possibilities, she said at an event attended by MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar and MCD South Zone Chairman Umed Singh Fogaat.

Meanwhile, Minister of Health and Family Welfare Pankaj Kumar Singh said that more than 14 lakh citizens have availed treatment since the BJP government started opening Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs).

Launching an AAM at Madipur, which is part of 51 Mandirs launched across the national capital, he said, with the launch of these 51 centres across Delhi, the total number of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in the city has reached 370.

Stakes in Pala Assembly seat and power signals deepen churn

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The battle for Pala has once again brought internal dynamics within the Kerala Congress (M) into sharp focus, with Minister Roshy Augustine's repeated assertion that party Chairman and Rajya Sabha MP Jose K. Mani will contest from the Assembly seat triggering visible discomfort within sections of the party. For the Mani family, Pala is political legacy.

The late K. M. Mani held the Assembly constituency in an unbroken run from 1967 until his demise in 2019.

Yet, the by-election that followed altered the landscape, with Jose's nominee losing.

In 2021, after aligning his faction with the CPI-M-led LDF, Jose contested from Pala Assembly constituency while serving as a Rajya Sabha member and was defeated again, even as five of his party members won, cementing Kerala Congress (M) as the third-largest ally in the Left front. The arithmetic has since grown more delicate.

The 2019 by-election winner, Mani C. Kappan who had then enjoyed Left support shifted to the Congress-led UDF.

A second straight defeat for Jose in Pala Assembly seat could prove politically costly, prompting what insiders describe as a calibrated wait-and-watch approach on his candidature.

It is in this context that Roshy's announcement at Adimali during the LDF central region march where he took the microphone to declare Jose as the Pala candidate has assumed significance. Though, Jose later said that a collective decision is pending and termed Roshy's remarks as enthusiastic, sources suggest he has been privately upset over the repeated public assertions. Complicating matters further, Kappan has now gone on record claiming he possesses detailed information about Jose's alleged discussions with leaders of the Congress-led UDF regarding a possible shift. Roshy had earlier publicly dismissed any talk of a front change, even as speculation swirled after the Left's recent electoral setbacks.

Satheesan slams delay in FIR against former MLA

KOZHIKODE

Kerala's Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan on Friday mounted a sharp attack on the CPI-M-led government, alleging double standards in handling a sexual assault complaint against former Left MLA P.T. Kunhumuhammed and flagging large-scale irregularities in the conduct of the Global Ayyappa Meet. Satheesan said he felt ashamed to be living in Kerala after reading the survivor's account. The sexual assault complaint, he noted, was submitted to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on November 24, but an FIR was registered only on December 8.

This shows how casually matters are handled when the accused belongs to their own camp, he said, demanding an explanation from the Chief Minister, who also holds the Home portfolio. In contrast, he claimed, when the complaint against a party MLA reached the state Congress President, it was forwarded and an FIR was registered the same day. Allegations against those aligned with the Left, he said, were not taken at face value and were delayed by two weeks. Satheesan lauded the survivor's courage.

JUDICIAL COMPLAINT MECHANISM

Govt Reaffirms In-House Mechanism For Judicial Complaints

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday reiterated that complaints against judges of the higher judiciary are addressed through an in-house mechanism evolved by the judiciary itself, underscoring the constitutional principle of judicial independence. The clarification came in response to a query raised in the Lok Sabha.

Replying on behalf of the government, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal stated that the independence of the judiciary is firmly enshrined in the Constitution of India. He explained that complaints received against judges and Chief Justices of High Courts are handled internally by the judiciary, in accordance with established procedures.

In a written statement laid on the table of the Lok Sabha, Meghwal said that grievances against members of the higher judiciary are examined under the in-house mechanism, with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and Chief Justices of High Courts empowered to deal with such matters. As per the procedure, the CJI is competent to receive complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of High Courts, while Chief Justices of High Courts are authorised to examine complaints against judges serving in their respective High Courts.

The minister further noted that on May 7, 1997, the Supreme Court of India adopted two key resolutions — The Restatement of Values of Judicial Life and the In-house Procedure. These were intended to lay down standards of judicial conduct and provide remedial measures in cases where judges fail to adhere to accepted ethical norms.

Complaints received through the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) or via any other mode are forwarded to the CJI or the respective Chief Justices of High Courts for appropriate action.

Sharing data provided by the Supreme Court, Meghwal informed the House that the number of complaints received in the office of the CJI against sitting judges over the past decade has fluctuated. The figures stood at 729 in 2016, 682 in 2017, 717 in 2018, 1,037 in 2019, 518 in 2020, 686 in 2021, 1,012 in 2022, 977 in 2023, 1,170 in 2024 and 1,102 in 2025.

QUICK READ

Carney to Attend Vigil After Deadly Tumbler Ridge Shooting

Toronto

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will attend a vigil on Friday in the small community of Tumbler Ridge, where nine people were killed in one of the deadliest mass shootings in the country's recent history, his office confirmed. According to police, 18-year-old Jesse Van Rootselaar, who had reportedly struggled with mental health issues, began the attack on Tuesday by killing her mother and stepbrother. Authorities said she then went to a local school, where she fatally shot a teacher and five young students. The tragedy has deeply shaken the tight-knit northern British Columbia community, where residents are grappling with grief and disbelief. Tumbler Ridge, known for its remote location and small population, is not accustomed to such violence, making the scale of the attack particularly devastating.

Over 91 per cent buildings in Sindh lack fire safety arrangements

Islamabad

An inspection of buildings conducted by the Sindh government committee has revealed that 91.3 per cent of the buildings in province lacked fire safety arrangements, Pakistani media reported on Friday. The government has decided to seal high-risk buildings which were found by the committee in violation of fire safety laws in Sindh. The committee was set up after the fire incident in Karachi's Gul Plaza which claimed lives of nearly 80 people, injured hundreds and caused financial loss for thousands of people, Pakistan's leading daily 'The Express Tribune' reported.

BNP Secures Historic Landslide Election Victory

Bangladesh's opposition party wins decisively, reshaping political landscape

DHAKA

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) secured a sweeping victory in Friday's parliamentary elections, marking a dramatic political comeback after nearly two decades out of power. The result is set to reshape the country's governance and economic direction, as party leader Tarique Rahman prepares to assume the role of prime minister at a critical moment in the nation's history.

According to the Election Commission, the BNP and its allies won at least 212 of the 299 contested seats in the Jatiya Sangsad, also known as the House of the Nation. The opposition Jamaat-e-Islami and its allies secured 77 seats, consolidating a strong parliamentary presence. The vote has been widely described as Bangladesh's first genuinely competitive election in years, reflecting a renewed democratic engagement among citizens.

Rahman, 60, is the son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and assassinated former President Ziaur Rahman. His political ascent comes at a time when Bangladesh is recovering from prolonged unrest and economic instability that followed the collapse of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government in 2024.

In the months since that collapse, an interim administration led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has overseen the country's transition. However, the political uncertainty and disruptions significantly affected key sectors, particularly the vital garment industry, which remains a backbone of Bangladesh's export economy.

Rahman faces immediate and formidable challenges. Restoring political stability will be crucial to ensuring public confidence in democratic institutions. Equally pressing is the need to revive investor trust, which weakened during months of turmoil. Rebuilding industries, stabilizing markets, and addressing economic disruptions will test the new administration's policy direction and leadership capabilities.

Despite clear trends in favor of the BNP for more than 12 hours, Rahman has yet to publicly comment on the outcome. The BNP has urged supporters to refrain from large-scale celebrations and instead offer special prayers, signaling a measured approach as the party prepares to transition into governance.

Afghanistan minister slams neighbouring nations

KABUL

Afghanistan's Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock Ataullah Omari has slammed neighbouring nations for their policy of deporting Afghan refugees, saying that host nations have deported refugees breaching humanitarian principles, human rights and refugee rights, local media reported on Friday. He stated that more than 4.5 million Afghan refugees have returned to Afghanistan from various nations since the start of the expulsion process, Afghanistan-based media outlet. He said, Our brothers were forcibly expelled from their homes. They were hosted for nearly 40 years, but in the end, they were deported by force and in violation of humanitarian principles.

Election victory paves way for stable Thai government

Bhumjaithai and Pheu Thai Unite to Form Coalition

BANGKOK

Thailand's political landscape shifted significantly after the Bhumjaithai Party secured a decisive victory in Sunday's general election. Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul confirmed on Friday that his party will join hands with the third-place Pheu Thai Party to form a coalition government, strengthening its hold on parliament.

According to calculations based on election commission data, Bhumjaithai secured 193 seats in the 500-member House of Representatives, marking a surprise landslide win. The reformist People's Party followed with 118 seats, while Pheu Thai claimed 74 seats. The combined strength of Bhumjaithai and Pheu Thai ensures a comfortable parliamentary majority, potentially ushering in a more stable phase of governance after years of political turbulence.

Pheu Thai's influence remains significant, bolstered by the backing of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who remains imprisoned but continues to wield considerable political clout. His party's decision to support Anutin signals a pragmatic alliance aimed at consolidating power and preventing prolonged coalition negotiations.

Addressing reporters after discussions with Pheu Thai leaders, Anutin emphasized cooperation and national interest. We will work together as a government and manage the country so we can do good things for the country, he said, projecting confidence in the coalition's ability to govern effectively.

The alliance is expected to provide legislative stability, enabling the new government to advance policy priorities and address economic and social challenges. Observers note that while ideological differences exist among coalition partners, the broad majority in parliament reduces the likelihood of immediate political deadlock.

As Thailand moves forward under this new coalition framework, attention will turn to how effectively the partnership translates electoral strength into cohesive governance and long-term political stability.

Marco Rubio Calls Transatlantic Alliance at Critical Crossroads

WASHINGTON

Secretary highlights evolving geopolitics before key Munich security gathering

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has warned that relations between the United States and Europe are at a defining moment as global politics undergo rapid and profound change. Speaking ahead of the annual Munich Security Conference, Rubio acknowledged the uncertainty shaping the transatlantic partnership but adopted a notably warmer and more reassuring tone compared to the tensions seen a year earlier.

At last year's Munich gathering, U.S. Vice President JD Vance openly criticized European allies, triggering diplomatic confrontations and raising concerns that Washington was prepared to rethink — or even dismantle — parts of the international order it had long championed. The remarks unsettled European leaders, many of whom began reassessing their strategic dependence on the United States.

Since then, Washington's partners have sought to strike a delicate balance: preserving the foundations of the transatlantic alliance while carving out a more independent course in security, trade, and foreign policy. This recalibration comes amid mounting global pressures, including Russian invasion of Ukraine and significant disruptions in global trade systems that have tested economic resilience on both sides of the Atlantic.

Rubio emphasized that the pace of global change leaves little room for complacency. I think it's at a defining moment … the world is changing very fast right in front of us, he said before departing for Munich. He acknowledged that the geopolitical landscape of today differs fundamentally from that of previous decades. The Old World is gone, Rubio remarked, suggesting that governments must rethink their roles and responsibilities in a new strategic era.

Despite recognizing these shifts, Rubio reaffirmed the deep-rooted ties binding the United States and Europe. He stressed that the two remain closely interconnected and that their futures will continue to be linked. His comments appear aimed at reassuring allies that, while policy debates may continue, the fundamental partnership remains intact.

Rubio's appearance also carries political implications at home, as he is viewed as a potential rival to Vance in the 2028 U.S. presidential race. Yet in Munich, the central message was one of dialogue and recalibration — a call for renewed discussions about what the future of the transatlantic alliance should look like in an increasingly complex world.

U.S. Deploys Second Aircraft Carrier to Middle East

WASHINGTON

The United States is sending a second aircraft carrier to the Middle East as tensions with Iran intensify, U.S. media reported. The move marks a significant escalation in Washington's military posture in a region already marked by instability. The USS Gerald R. Ford, one of the Navy's most advanced aircraft carriers, will deploy from the Caribbean with its escort ships, according to The New York Times, citing U.S. officials. The carrier strike group is expected to strengthen American naval presence and act as a deterrent amid rising friction with Tehran. The White House and the Pentagon did not immediately comment. Such deployments typically signal heightened readiness and send a strategic message to adversaries.

Aircraft carriers are key to U.S. power projection, supporting air operations, maritime security and allied forces. The Middle East has seen recurring tensions with Iran, including maritime incidents and proxy conflicts, underscoring the fragile security situation.

North Korea to Hold Ninth Party Congress This Month

PYONGYANG

North Korea is set to convene its Ninth Party Congress later this month, a pivotal political event designed to reinforce leader Kim Jong Un's authority and project his image as both a benevolent domestic figure and commander of a formidable military power. The once-every-five-year congress is one of the most significant events in the country's political calendar, shaping national priorities for years to come. In the lead-up to the congress, Kim has conducted high-profile visits to a range of military and economic sites across the isolated state. These include a cruise missile launch facility and a large-scale greenhouse farm, underscoring efforts to showcase advancements in both defense capabilities and food production. The tours are widely seen as part of a broader campaign to highlight achievements under his leadership ahead of the gathering.

The congress, expected to open on an undisclosed date in late February, will assess the outcomes of the current five-year development strategy and set new goals. At the previous congress in 2021, Kim openly acknowledged that the earlier economic plan had failed in almost every sector. He then called for increased investment in heavy industry while also strengthening agriculture and light industry to boost the supply of consumer goods.

Observers say the upcoming congress comes at a critical juncture, both domestically and internationally. Economic challenges persist under continued sanctions and limited trade, while geopolitical tensions remain elevated.

Rachel Minyoung Lee, a senior fellow at the Stimson Center's Korea Program and 38 North, noted that the multi-day event will provide valuable insights into Kim's domestic and foreign policy direction for the next five years. The congress is expected not only to review past shortcomings but also to signal how North Korea intends to navigate economic pressures and external diplomatic dynamics.

As anticipation builds, the Ninth Party Congress stands as a key moment for Pyongyang, offering clues about the regime's strategic trajectory and reinforcing Kim's consolidated grip on power.

Far-Right Linked Union Targets Mercedes Plant Workers Vote

FRANKFURT

Zentrum challenges mainstream unions at key German auto factory. On a dark February morning at Mercedes-Benz's vast Untertuerkheim plant in Germany, workers arriving for the early shift were greeted not by managers, but by activists from Zentrum. The group, a self-styled union affiliated with the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), is seeking to reshape representation at one of Europe's most iconic automotive sites.

Handing out pamphlets emblazoned with the word Game-changer, Zentrum activists are campaigning ahead of elections to the factory's works council. The works council system in Germany plays a powerful role in representing employee interests within companies, particularly in large industrial firms such as Mercedes-Benz. Control or influence within such councils can shape workplace policies, negotiations over layoffs, and strategic decisions affecting thousands of workers.

Zentrum claims that mainstream unions have failed to adequately protect the automotive sector from sweeping job cuts and structural changes. Germany's auto industry is undergoing a profound transformation as manufacturers transition toward electric vehicles and digital technologies. This shift has led to restructuring plans and fears of workforce reductions across several major firms.

The AfD-linked group argues that traditional labor representatives have been too closely aligned with corporate management or political elites, leaving workers vulnerable amid industrial change. By positioning itself as an alternative voice, Zentrum is attempting to tap into anxieties among factory employees concerned about job security and the future of Germany's manufacturing base.

Critics, however, warn that the growing presence of politically affiliated unions could inject broader ideological battles into workplace representation. The involvement of a group tied to the AfD — a party known for its nationalist and anti-establishment positions — signals a new dimension in labor politics within Germany's flagship industries.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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2		9		7			4	
5		4	1		9	3		7
	1		9		2	4	5	
4		6		1				2
3		5	8		6		7	
	7			9		5		4
6		2	4		7		1	
9		3		5		7		8

1	9	2	7	8	4	5	6	3
5	3	7	6	2	9	8	4	1
4	8	6	1	5	3	9	7	2
9	1	5	3	4	8	7	2	6
6	4	8	9	7	2	1	3	5
7	2	3	5	1	6	4	9	8
2	6	1	4	9	5	3	8	7
3	5	9	8	6	7	2	1	4
8	7	4	2	3	1	6	5	9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

ODESA PORT STRIKE

Russian Strikes Kill 3 Brothers, Hit Key Odesa Port

MOSCOW

Three Ukrainian brothers, including an eight-year-old child, were killed near the eastern front line in renewed violence linked to the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainian officials said on Friday. The attack, which occurred in the Donetsk region, also left their mother and grandmother injured, according to local prosecutors. Two of the brothers were 19 years old.

In a separate assault, a Russian drone strike targeted one of Ukraine's critical Black Sea ports near Odesa, killing one person and injuring six others. The ports in and around Odesa are vital maritime export hubs, forming the backbone of Ukraine's foreign trade and sustaining its wartime economy. Despite repeated attacks, these ports have continued to function, underscoring their strategic importance.

Deputy Prime Minister Oleksiy Kuleba said Russia launched massive strikes on port and railway infrastructure, highlighting the scale of the latest offensive. He reported damage to business facilities, fertilizer warehouses, and vehicles, including freight wagons. The attack also sparked a fire, adding to the destruction of essential infrastructure.

The Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority did not disclose the exact port targeted, stating only that it was one of the three major facilities around Odesa. Despite the damage, operations continued, reflecting Ukraine's efforts to maintain export flows under constant threat.

Moscow has recently intensified strikes on Ukraine's energy and port infrastructure, aiming to weaken the country's economy and logistics network. At the same time, Kyiv has responded by targeting Russian oil facilities, escalating the tit-for-tat attacks. These developments come as U.S.-led diplomatic efforts to bring the war to an end remain stalled, prolonging uncertainty and hardship for civilians.

QUICK READ

New CPI series to make poverty estimates, policy responses more accurate: CEA

New Delhi

As India launched the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series with 2024 as the base year, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran has said the change better reflects household spending patterns, makes poverty estimates more accurate, adding that the new findings reveal income growth and productivity gains. The new CPI series found rising service consumption, as the share of food in domestic budgets declined and more accurate data will help fiscal and monetary policy makers formulate better responses to evolving economic conditions, Nageswaran said.

Reliance Industries likely to get licence from US for Venezuelan oil

Mumbai

The United States has issued a general licence to India's Reliance Industries Ltd that will allow the refiner to buy Venezuelan oil directly without violating sanctions, two sources familiar with the matter said. Following the US capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro earlier this month, US officials said Washington would ease sanctions imposed on Venezuela's energy industry to facilitate a $2 billion oil supply deal between Caracas and Washington and an ambitious $100 billion reconstruction plan for the country's oil industry. A general licence authorises the purchase, exportation, and sale of Venezuelan-origin oil.

US Inflation Steady as Fed Weighs Rate Outlook

WASHINGTON

U.S. consumer prices likely maintained a steady pace of increase in January as businesses adjusted prices at the start of the year, economists said, potentially giving the Federal Reserve room to keep interest rates unchanged for the time being. The anticipated rise in inflation comes as the labor market shows signs of stabilization. The upcoming Consumer Price Index (CPI) report from the U.S. Department of Labor is expected to show that inflationary pressures remain persistent, though not accelerating sharply. Analysts suggest that part of the January price movement reflects routine annual adjustments by businesses, alongside the ongoing pass-through effects of trade policies.

BJP and Congress Clash Over Farmers and US Trade Deal

Privilege motion row deepens amid allegations of misinformation

NEW DELHI

A sharp political confrontation broke out on Friday as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress clashed over alleged remarks related to farmers and a proposed trade understanding with the United States. The exchange escalated into a dispute over a privilege motion, with both sides accusing each other of spreading misinformation.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh dismissed the Opposition's allegations as baseless. What farmers' issue? Lies, just like Rafale, are spreading confusion among people, he said, accusing Congress leaders of deliberately misleading the public. Referring to statements made by Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Singh asserted that there would be no compromise on farmers' interests.

He further alleged that the Opposition was attempting to incite unrest. They want to create confusion in the country; they want to incite a civil war in the nation, Singh claimed, adding that those raising the issue should face not only a privilege motion but possibly legal action as well. He emphasized that no joint statement had been signed yet and that discussions with the U.S. were still in the question-and-answer phase.

Responding strongly, Congress MP Pramod Tiwari termed the privilege motion politically motivated. He argued that anyone familiar with parliamentary procedure would find the proposal hollow and designed purely for publicity. Defending Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Tiwari stated that Gandhi can neither be intimidated nor threatened and remains committed to standing up for farmers and labourers.

Congress MP Rajeev Shukla echoed similar sentiments, insisting the party would continue opposing the proposed U.S. trade arrangement. He alleged that India's interests had been compromised in the deal.

The heated exchange highlights escalating political tensions as debates over farmers' welfare and international trade negotiations take centre stage in Parliament, with both sides digging in ahead of further discussions.

INDIA, ISRAEL DEEPEN AI AND CLIMATE TECH PARTNERSHIP

High-level Israeli delegation to attend India AI Impact Summit

NEW DELHI

India and Israel are strengthening cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI), climate innovation and digital transformation, with a clear focus on solving real-world challenges such as resilient agriculture, future-ready skills, and responsible AI applications. An official statement on Friday highlighted the growing strategic alignment between the two countries in emerging technologies.

The Embassy of Israel in New Delhi announced the arrival of a high-level Israeli delegation for the upcoming India AI Impact Summit 2026. The delegation is led by Ilan Fluss, former Ambassador and EDTs Policy Coordinator at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and includes senior government officials, technology leaders, researchers and policy experts.

The discussions will centre on AI for climate adaptation, precision agriculture, digital public infrastructure, workforce transformation and ethical governance of emerging technologies. Both sides aim to deepen collaboration in AI, deep tech, ESG investment, digital governance and responsible innovation.

At a time when artificial intelligence is reshaping the global order, India and Israel have a joint responsibility to lead with innovation guided by ethics, Fluss said, emphasizing that technological progress must align with human values. He described the Summit as symbolising a new chapter in bilateral relations, where co-creation in AI and digital public goods can serve as a bridge between the two societies and a model for global cooperation.

Maya Sherman, Innovation Attaché at the Embassy, underlined the shared vision of people-centric technology. She said the Impact Summit reflects deep trust between the two innovation ecosystems and a commitment to inclusive, ethical and socially grounded technological development.

In the lead-up to the Summit, the Embassy organised side events connecting Israeli and Indian stakeholders across academia, industry and government. During the main sessions at Bharat Mandapam, the Embassy will collaborate with institutions such as Indian Institute of Technology Ropar, Dhirubhai Ambani University and tech policy think-tank The Dialogue.

Unified strategy bridges specialist gaps and scales proactive care nationwide

India Integrates AI to Transform Public Health Delivery

NEW DELHI

India has fundamentally restructured its public health delivery system by embedding artificial intelligence into a unified national strategy, according to an official statement released on Friday. By integrating AI-enabled tools across major health programmes, the government aims to address specialist shortages, strengthen early detection, and scale preventive care across the country.

AI tools have been deployed within the National TB Elimination Programme, the National Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme, and the Media Disease Surveillance System. These technologies empower non-specialist healthcare workers to conduct advanced screenings, resulting in a reported 27 percent decline in adverse tuberculosis outcomes and the generation of over 4,500 outbreak alerts.

The transformation is further reinforced through e-Sanjeevani, which has facilitated more than 282 million consultations using AI-assisted differential diagnosis. Additionally, the UdyogYantra AI System is being used to monitor malnutrition, creating a data-driven framework for targeted interventions. This growing ecosystem now spans infectious disease management, cancer screening, modernisation of traditional Ayurvedic medicine, and the National One Health Programme. Officials say AI-enabled systems are improving early detection, enhancing clinical decision support, and expanding access to remote care, particularly in underserved areas. In a major global outreach effort, India will host the Global South's first international AI summit in New Delhi from February 16–20. The event is expected to bring together global leaders, policymakers, innovators, and technology firms to discuss AI policy, research, industry collaboration, and public engagement. The push gained further momentum in March 2024 when the Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved the national-level IndiaAI Mission with a budget outlay of Rs 10,371.92 crore. One of its core pillars, the IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, focuses on developing and scaling impactful AI solutions to address national challenges, including healthcare delivery. According to the government, the AI-enabled healthcare ecosystem is not only bridging service gaps but also enhancing the quality, affordability, and accessibility of medical services positioning India as a leader in AI-driven public health innovation.

CPI likely to remain below 4 pc target

NEW DELHI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is expected to remain below the 4 per cent target level even in newly-introduced CPI series, and will better capture India's evolving consumption curve and align data for policy decisions with international practices, a report said on Friday.

The report from the Bank of Baroda said, The trajectory of core inflation needs to be closely watched as prices of precious metals pose upside risk. But with fine balancing of weights in the new CPI series, we expect it to be within the targeted 4+/-2 per cent level. Bank of Baroda said the new series ensures headline CPI, the crucial target variable for monetary policy, remains contemporary and aligned with international practices.

The new series has better captured the seasonality in prices of the majority of food items by adjusting their weights, it commended. Going forward, we expect the government's supply side measures would be adequate to maintain a desirable food inflation trajectory, the bank forecasted. Bank of Baroda's Essential Commodities Index ECI runs at -0.4 per cent YoY for the first 11 days of February 2026 and that, except for some edible oils and pulses, high frequency food prices are largely contained and do not pose immediate risk, the report said. However, in the new base, food inflation has reversed the deflationary trend that was observed in the past series for the last 7 months.

The bank attributed this change to reduction in weight of the most volatile basket of CPI which is the TOP (Tomato, Onion and Potato) vegetables. The new series increases the number of weighted items to 358 from 299, covers 1,465 rural and 1,395 urban markets plus 12 online markets, and reduces the weight of food in the CPI basket to 40.1 per cent from 45.8 per cent. Rural housing, online media/streaming services, value added dairy products, barley, pendrive and external hard disk.

Most white-collar jobs to be automated in 12-18 months: Microsoft AI Chief

NEW DELHI

Chief of artificial intelligence at Microsoft, Mustafa Suleyman, has warned that most white collar roles that rely on computers could be automated within the next 12 to 18 months. He informed that the company is building a professional grade AGI, that could automate majority of works done by lawyers, accountants, project managers and marketers. In an interview with the Financial Times, Suleyman said Microsoft is racing to develop professional grade AGI, AI systems capable of performing nearly everything a human professional can do. He said the current shift in AI landscape would go beyond incremental productivity gains to produce structural displacement across knowledge based professions. White-collar work, where you're sitting down at a computer, either being a lawyer or an accountant or a project manager or a marketing person, most of those tasks will be fully automated by an AI within the next 12 to 18 months, the report quoted Suleyman as saying. He described Microsoft's strategy to capture a larger share of the enterprise market by automating routine and repeatable tasks such as document drafting, data analysis and project coordination that currently require skilled employees. He informed about Microsoft's plans to increase AI model productions to reduce reliance on OpenAI, following a revised agreement between the two companies.

Further, he said creating a new model will be as simple as making a podcast or writing a blog, adding that institutions and individuals could design AI tailored to their specific needs. US tech giant Oracle plans to cut 20,000 to 30,000 jobs to expand its AI data centre capacity, while Amazon recently announced lay off 16,000 employees as part of its AI restructure plan.

PRECIOUS METALS SURGE 1-2 PC OVER VALUE BUYING AT SUPPORT LEVELS

MUMBAI

Gold and silver prices surged on Friday as investors took to value buying after prices moderated due to huge declines in the previous session. MCX gold April futures gained 1.08 per cent to Rs 1,54,480 per 10 grams on an intra-day basis. Meanwhile, MCX silver March futures added 2.59 per cent to Rs 2,42,564 per kg. Gold has recovered post the January end collapse and is well on its way to what we believe should be $6,000 per ounce levels by CY26 end, said Sandip Raichura, CEO of Retail Broking and Distribution and Director, PL Capital.

Though US President Donald Trump approved a trade deal with India and hinted at a potential one with Brazil reducing the trade related uncertainties, higher inflation and emerging split between the Northwest and the rest of the world sustain reserve bank buying of gold, the analyst said. Gold has support at Rs 1,54,000 per 10 grams while silver on MCX has support at Rs 2,42,000 per kg, a market participant said. The broader uptrend remains intact, and the recent pullback appears to be healthy profit booking rather than structural weakness, market watchers said.

COMEX Gold is trading near the $4,850–$5,100 zone after a sharp correction from recent highs above $5,500–$5,600. The broader uptrend remains intact, with the recent pullback reflecting profit booking and healthy price digestion, analysts said. Meanwhile, COMEX Silver is currently trading near the $73–$847 zone after a sharp correction from record highs above $121. The dollar index surged to 97 on Friday, up 0.03 per cent from 96.93 in the previous session. Investors remain keen on US inflation data due later on Friday for more monetary policy cues on the US Fed's interest rate trajectory.

RBI-LEAD-BANK

RBI Seeks Public Feedback on Revised Lead Bank Scheme

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued a draft circular proposing revised guidelines for the Lead Bank Scheme and invited public comments until March 6, 2026. The move is aimed at streamlining operational aspects of the long-running financial inclusion framework.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra had earlier announced in the Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies on February 6 that updated guidelines for the scheme would be released shortly. The revised framework seeks to fine-tune the objectives of the Lead Bank Scheme, clarify the structure and membership of various coordination forums, and clearly define the roles and responsibilities of key functionaries. According to the central bank's statement, the draft also proposes measures to strengthen the functioning of the State Level Bankers' Committees (SLBCs) and Lead District Manager offices. These bodies play a critical role in coordinating banking and development activities at the state and district levels. The Lead Bank Scheme was originally introduced by the RBI in December 1969 to enhance the flow of institutional credit to priority sectors and promote rural development. Under the scheme, a designated bank in each district is assigned the responsibility of acting as the lead bank. This bank coordinates efforts among credit institutions and government agencies to improve financial inclusion, branch expansion, deposit mobilisation, and lending to priority sectors.

The scheme was last comprehensively reviewed in 2009 by a High-Level Committee of the RBI. After consultations with stakeholders including state governments, banks, development institutions, academicians, NGOs and microfinance institutions, the committee concluded.

Centre approves development projects for 10 roads, 16 bridges in Assam

NEW DELHI

In a major effort to enhance infrastructure in Assam, the Centre on Friday announced the approval of ten road and 16 bridge development projects. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari announced the approval of Rs 617.98 crore for 10 road development projects in Assam under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) Scheme, along with an additional Rs 129.74 crore sanctioned for 16 bridge projects under the CRIF Setu Bandhan Scheme.

In a post on X, Gadkari said the projects will play a crucial role in enhancing regional connectivity, improving transportation efficiency and reducing travel time across Assam. He emphasised that robust road and bridge infrastructure is central to the Centre's vision of inclusive development and seamless connectivity, particularly in strategically and economically important regions like the Northeast. According to officials, the sanctioned road projects will focus on upgrading and improving key stretches that serve as vital links between districts, markets and industrial hubs.

The bridge projects under the Setu Bandhan Scheme are aimed at replacing old and weak structures cy.

Gavaskar expects Kuldeep to replace Arshdeep against Pak

Spin-friendly Colombo conditions could shape India's bowling combination

NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar expects wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav to replace pacer Arshdeep Singh in India's playing XI for the high-voltage T20 World Cup clash against Pakistan on Sunday.

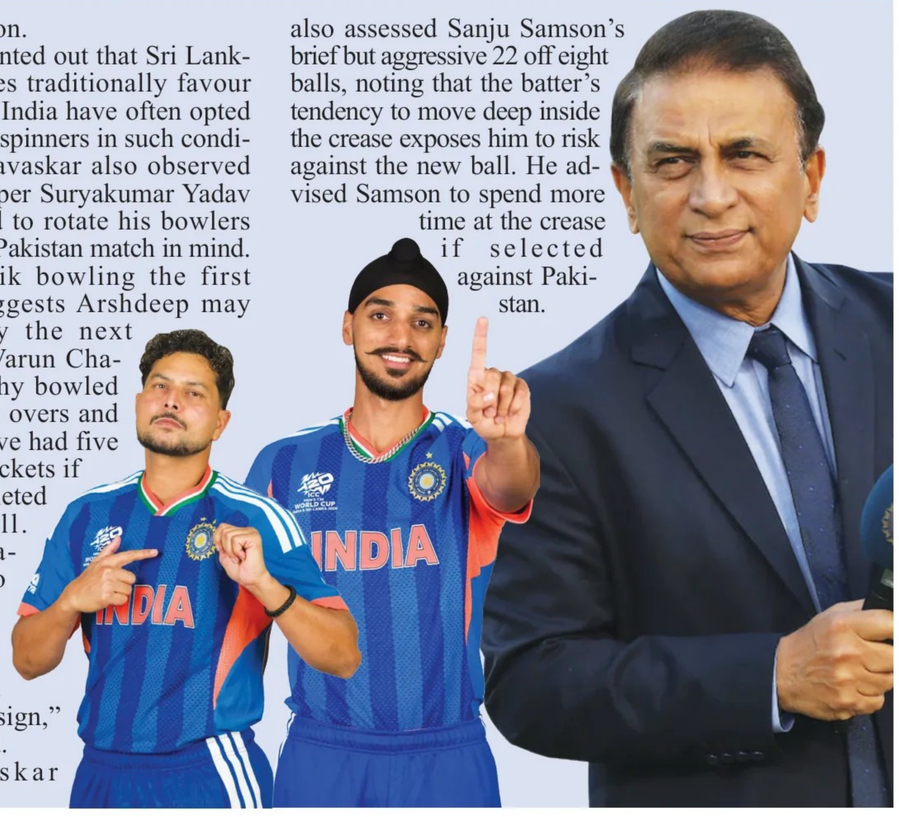
Arshdeep endured a tough outing against Namibia, conceding runs and failing to complete his full quota of four overs, though India registered a commanding 93-run victory to extend their winning streak. Gavaskar believes the team management's bowling choices indicate a possible change for the marquee encounter in Colombo.

"All our bowlers picked up wickets. Arshdeep did not complete his four overs, while Shivam Dube bowled two and Hardik completed his quota. This hints that Kuldeep Yadav could replace Arshdeep against Pakistan," Gavaskar said during an interaction.

He pointed out that Sri Lankan pitches traditionally favour spin and India have often opted for three spinners in such conditions. Gavaskar also observed that skipper Suryakumar Yadav appeared to rotate his bowlers with the Pakistan match in mind.

"Hardik bowling the first over suggests Arshdeep may not play the next match. Varun Chakaravarthy bowled only two overs and could have had five or six wickets if he completed his spell. Axar Patel's two wickets in three overs is also a positive sign," he added.

Gavaskar also assessed Sanju Samson's brief but aggressive 22 off eight balls, noting that the batter's tendency to move deep inside the crease exposes him to risk against the new ball. He advised Samson to spend more time at the crease if selected against Pakistan.



India wary of unconventional spin ahead of Pakistan showdown

NEW DELHI

India will need to fine-tune their strategy against unorthodox spin after being tested by Namibia captain Gerhard Erasmus, as they prepare to face Pakistan's similarly unconventional off-spinner Usman Tariq in their marquee T20 World Cup clash on Sunday.

Despite posting a formidable 209 for nine in a comprehensive win, India were far from comfortable against Erasmus' inventive variations. The Namibia skipper returned outstanding figures of four for 20 from his four overs, including crucial strikes in the death overs against a powerful Indian batting line-up.

Erasmus mixed his pace cleverly, often using a round-arm action and occasionally delivering the ball from well behind the stumps, unsettling the batters' rhythm. His ability to disguise variations and attack under pressure highlighted areas India must address before stepping out in Colombo, where conditions traditionally assist slower bowlers.

Erasmus' four-wicket spell exposes gaps before Pakistan clash in Colombo

Tariq, though a conventional off-spinner at first glance, presents a different challenge. He is known for an exaggerated pause in his delivery stride — an unusual trait that has previously drawn scrutiny over its legality. Such methods can disrupt timing and force batters into indecision, especially on slower surfaces. India had expected flatter pitches in the tournament, but tracks in Mumbai and Delhi have already demanded adaptability. The Colombo strip is likely to further emphasise the role of spin.

After the Namibia match, opener Ishan Kishan downplayed concerns, insisting preparation has already been done through video analysis and trusting instinct remains key in T20 cricket. However, he admitted that unconventional actions can briefly play on a batter's mind. Namibia coach Craig Williams praised Erasmus' execution under pressure, calling his spell against a world-class side proof of his captain's skill and relentless training in mastering difficult overs.

Both sides undefeated; momentum, conditions could decide T20 World Cup group leaders

Unbeaten New Zealand, South Africa clash for top spot in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD

Unbeaten New Zealand and South Africa will face off on Saturday in a high-stakes T20 World Cup Group D clash, with both teams virtually assured of Super 8s qualification but battling for top spot and momentum.

New Zealand have looked clinical so far. After restricting Afghanistan to 182 for six, the Black Caps chased it in 17.5 overs, led by Tim Seifert's 65 and solid contributions from Glenn Phillips (42), Mark Chapman (28) and Daryl Mitchell (25 not out). Earlier, Seifert and Finn Allen powered a 10-wicket win over UAE, chasing 174 in 15.2 overs.

South Africa, meanwhile, combined firepower and composure. Skipper Aiden Markram scored 59 off 32 against Canada, supported by David Miller (39 not out) and Tristan Stubbs (34 not out), while Lungi Ngidi's four-wicket haul sealed victory. Against Afghanistan, Quinton de Kock (59) and Ryan Rickelton (61) led a 187-run total, with Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 84 forcing a tie. South Africa triumphed in a double Super Over, showcasing depth under pressure.

The Proteas also benefit from familiarity with the Ahmedabad pitch, having played both matches at the venue, experiencing day and day-night conditions. The surface offers bounce and carry for stroke play while aiding seamers, an advantage New Zealand must negotiate.

Key battles will be up front: Seifert and Allen against Rabada and Ngidi, while Matt Henry and Lockie Ferguson test de Kock and Rickelton in the powerplay. Middle overs control from Mitchell Santner and finishing duels between Miller-Stubbs and Phillips-Mitchell could prove decisive.

'We are helpless': B'desh cricketer reacts emotionally

DHAKA

Bangladesh cricketers have expressed shock and dismay following Sports Adviser Asif Nazrul's recent remarks on the country's withdrawal from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 in India, calling the U-turn "confusing and demoralising."

Nazrul claimed during a press briefing that the decision not to participate was taken jointly by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the players, praising the cricketers for making a "sacrifice" in the interest of national security and dignity. "The decision was made by the Bangladesh Cricket Board and the cricketers. They themselves made sacrifices for the safety of the country's cricket, for the safety of the people. The role they played in upholding Bangladesh's dignity will always be exemplary," he said.

However, players and officials have criticised Nazrul's statement as contradictory.

LUBOMIR JANCARIK stuns Manav Thakkar at WTT Star Contender

CHENNAI

India's medal hope Manav Thakkar crashed out in the second round of the WTT Star Contender Table Tennis tournament at Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University, defeated by 38-year-old Czech player Lubomir Jancarik in four games (11-6, 11-7, 9-11, 11-9) on Friday.

World No. 174 Jancarik produced a composed and tactical performance, displaying precise backhand side-spin serves, controlled returns, and consistency across both short exchanges and long rallies. The Czech veteran, a journeyman of the international circuit, rarely gave away easy points and maintained pressure throughout the match. "Manav is a very good player, but I think the match was in my hands today. I was leading in all the sets," Jancarik said, reflecting on a previous victory over Thakkar at the WTT Feeder in Havirov last year.

Thakkar, seeded fourth and ranked 33rd globally, appeared off-colour, committing unforced errors and struggling to find rhythm, allowing Jancarik to dictate play. The upset marks one of the biggest shocks of the tournament so far and highlights the unpredictability of elite table tennis. In another standout performance, India's S.F.R. Snehit staged a remarkable comeback from 0-2 down to beat Japan's Mizuki Oikawa 9-11, 15-17, 11-4, 11-6, 18-16 in 52 minutes, saving multiple match points in the fifth game. Snehit will next face top seed Oh Junsung.

Women's doubles also saw an upset, with wildcards Swastika Ghosh and Sarah De Nutte defeating fourth seeds Diya Chitale and Yasashwini Ghorpade 11-6, 11-9, 3-11, 14-12 to reach the quarterfinals.

Koneru Humpy set for third outing at Norway Chess Women

STAVANGER, NORWAY

Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy is all set to return to the prestigious Norway Chess Women's tournament, scheduled from May 25 to June 5, marking her third appearance at the event.

A two-time World Rapid Champion, the 38-year-old Humpy is among three Indian women who have qualified for the Candidates Tournament, which will determine the challenger for the World Championship later this year. "I'm really happy to be part of Norway Chess Women. It's a tournament I've always enjoyed, not only because of the high level of competition but also the warm atmosphere and excellent organisation," Humpy said. "I'm looking forward to playing in Oslo and competing against some of the world's strongest players."

Humpy first made history in 2002, becoming the first Indian woman to earn the Grandmaster title at just 15 years old, and at the time, she was the youngest female grandmaster in history. Since then, she has been a trailblazer for Indian chess, inspiring a generation of women players with her accomplishments on the international stage.

Norway Chess Women runs alongside the main Norway Chess event and mirrors the Open tournament in format, number of participants, playing conditions, and prize fund, setting a benchmark for gender equality in professional chess. The tournament attracts top-tier talent from across the globe, providing high-level competition in a well-organized environment that challenges players and promotes the growth of women's chess.

Indian Racing Festival: Goa gears up for adrenaline-fueled street racing weekend

GOA

The coastal city of Goa is set to host the fourth round of the Indian Racing Festival this weekend at a tailor-made 2.064km FIA-grade street circuit adjacent to Goa International Airport. Featuring 12 challenging turns, the track has been designed to promote late braking, close racing, and constant position changes, ensuring an action-packed spectacle for motorsport fans. Every team will compete in identical Ligier JS F422 cars powered by 1.3-litre turbocharged Alpine engines, making driver skill, strategy, and adaptability decisive factors in a tightly contested championship. The narrow margins separating top contenders mean every lap could significantly shape the title race.

Standout drivers include Divy Nandan of Hyderabad Black Birds, who arrives with international experience in GB3 and British F4. Chennai Turbo Riders rely on reigning Formula 4 India champion Aqil Alibhai, while Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru will pin hopes on young talent Ruhaan Alva, already making waves on European circuits. European representation includes Tom Canning and Jemma Moore, adding pedigree and experience to the grid. Spectators can expect more than just racing. The festival atmosphere combines music, fan zones, and interactive experiences, providing close access to pitlanes, teams, and drivers. Celebrity team owners and international competitors further enhance the glamour and competitive edge of the event. With a coastal backdrop, high-speed overtakes, and tight street circuits, the Goa round underlines India's growing motorsport ecosystem.

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